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No. 1355.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1853.

REVIEWS

Chronicles selected from the Originals of Cartaphilus, the Wandering Jew: embracing a Period of nearly Nineteen Centuries. Now First Revealed to, and Edited by, David Hoffman, Hon. J.U.D. of Göttingen. In Two Series, each of Three Volumes. Series the First. Vol. I. Bosworth.

As might be anticipated from the above title, this is a somewhat curious and uncouth performance. Who Mr. David Hoffman is, we know not. We should guess, however, from some indications in the volume before us, that he is an American of German-Jewish lineage, residing in England. If of Jewish family, however, he is a Christian in creed. He is an "Hon. J.U.D. of Göttingen"—whatever that may be,—and the author already of "some legal and miscellaneous works." His present work is published both in England and in the United States.

The peculiar nature of the work gives more interest than usual to these personal particulars. Mr. Hoffman is clearly one of those transcendental philosophers now beginning to abound both in England and in the United States, who, full of great notions about the past, the present, and the future, and especially adverse to the progress of the so-called materialism between which and transcendentalism the age is divided, are not satisfied with literary attempts on the ordinary duodecimo or octavo scale,—but desire to put forth "revelations of truths" in which the "*totum scibile*," or whole round of knowledge, is metaphysically reorganized and adapted to the speculation of the time. The appearance of such works, under such names as "Alpha," the "Poughkeepsie Seer," and the like, is among the most curious of the intellectual signs of the times,—partly hopeful, partly sad enough. Mr. Hoffman is far more rational and orderly in his views than most of these philosophers of the "*totum scibile*." He seems to be a very orthodox Christian gentleman, with a system of theologico-metaphysical tenets which he has worked out for himself in connexion with the doctrines of the Trinity, Free Will, Original Sin, and the like;—entertaining, moreover, a dread of the progress of Romanism at the present time, and a faith in the speedy advent of a Millenarian epoch when one pure form of universal belief will irradiate the world. With all this there is very considerable intellectual power, some originality, no small amount of learning, and much candour and fine feeling.

Such, so far as we can gather, being Mr. Hoffman himself, our impression is, that the story of the Wandering Jew has been selected by him as a convenient allegory, or narrative machinery, for the putting forth of the rather chaotic contents of his own mind, including both his philosophy and his learning. On the other hand, he studiously keeps up the distinction between himself and Cartaphilus; gravely pretending to be nothing more than the Editor of the manuscript *Chronicles* which the Wandering Jew has put into his hands,—and never once assuming, either in preface or in note, that the reader will consider the work as a literary whimsy. Hence, it might appear as if the idea of writing a novel on the story of the Wandering Jew had first come into the author's mind, and as if the metaphysics and learning, instead of being Mr. Hoffman's own, merely contributed the *vraisemblance* required in such a fiction. The only portions of the work in which Mr. Hoffman speaks in his own name are occasional notes, and a preliminary "Histoirette of the Legend of the Wandering Jew." In this "His-

toirette" we have a detailed and interesting sketch of the history of the singular tradition in question.—

"The first explicit and authentic mention of the 'Wandering Jew' will be found in the Latin Works of Roger de Wendover, a monk of St. Albans, who died in the year of Grace 1237. This work having been merged in the more extended one of Matthew Paris, a Benedictine monk of the Congregation of Clugay, likewise of the monastery of St. Albans, about the year 1250,—we there also find the same account given of this mysterious personage. It appears, then, from Roger de Wendover, confirmed by Matthew Paris, that, in the year of the Nativity, 1238, a great convocation of Bishops and of other church dignitaries, had assembled at St. Albans; among whom was an Archbishop of Armenia Major, who had come to England upon a pilgrimage to the relics, lately deposited there by the Crusaders. The conversation, after a time, happened to turn upon the subject of that famed Wanderer of Ages, then named 'Josephus'—the faith that might be placed in the long-known tradition—and as to the cause of his terrific curse. In the course of that interesting inquiry, the Archbishop, through his interpreter, a knight, was asked whether 'he had ever seen or heard of that man, of whom there was much talk in the world, and who is still alive, and who, when our Lord suffered, was present and spoke to him.' In reply, the knight stated, that 'his lord, the Archbishop, well knew that man; and shortly before his lord had taken his way towards the Western Countries, the said Josephus had ate at his table in Armenia, and that he had often seen and held converse with him. On being further interrogated, the knight stated for his lord, that, at the time of the suffering of Jesus Christ, and when seized by the Jews and carried into the Hall of Judgment before Pontius Pilate—that governor finding no fault with him, nevertheless said, 'Take ye him and judge him according to thy law'—whereupon the shouts of the Jews increased, and he released unto them Barabbas, and delivered Jesus to them to be crucified. When therefore the Jews were dragging Jesus forth, and had reached the door, Cartaphilus, then a porter of the hall in Pilate's service, impiously struck the Saviour on his back with his hand, and said in mockery, 'Go faster, Jesus, go faster, why dost thou linger?' And Jesus looking back upon him with a severe countenance said to him, 'I am going, and thou wilt wait till I return.' According as our Lord said, this Cartaphilus (now called Josephus) is still awaiting his return! At the time of our Lord's suffering, Cartaphilus was thirty years old; and when he attains the age of a hundred years, he always returns to the same age as he was at that time! After Christ's death, and when the Catholic faith gained ground, this Cartaphilus was baptized by that Ananias who baptized the Apostle Paul, and then took the name of Josephus. He often dwells in both divisions of Armenia, and in other Oriental lands, passing his time amidst the bishops and other prelates of the church: he is a man of holy conversation—of few words, and circumspect in his demeanour, for he does not speak at all, unless when questioned by the bishops and religious men; and then he tells of the events of old times, and of those which occurred at the suffering and resurrection of our Lord, and of the witnesses of the resurrection, namely, those who arose with Christ, and went into the Holy City, and appeared unto men: he also tells of the creed of the Apostles, and of their separation and preaching,—and all this he relates without smiling or levity of conversation—as one who is well practised in sorrow and the fear of God, always looking forward with fear to the coming of Jesus Christ, lest at the last judgment he should find him in anger, whom, on his way to death, he had provoked to just vengeance. Numbers come to him from different parts of the world, enjoying his society and conversation; and to them, if they are men of authority, he explains all doubts on the matters whereon he is questioned. He refuses all gifts that are offered to him,—being content with slight food and clothing. He places his hope of salvation on the fact that he sinned through ignorance; for the Lord when suffering prayed for his enemies in these

words—'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"

Mr. Hoffman then traces the subsequent history of this Cartaphilus, or Josephus—the faith in whose existence was universal in the popular mind of Christendom during the Middle Ages. He appeared at various places in the fourteenth century under the new name of "Isaac Lake-dion;" in 1530 he had an interview at Florence with the famous magician and astrologer Cornelius Agrippa, with whom he conversed some time; in 1542 he was seen by two German students, listening attentively to a sermon in a church at Hamburg; in 1562 he visited Strasbourg, "notifying to the magistrates that they should not record him as a stranger, for that, if they would search their registers, the fact would be verified that, just two centuries before, he had passed through their city,"—which was found to be the case; in 1575 he appeared in Brabant, very poor, but so learned in all languages as to amaze scholars; after that, during the next two centuries, he appeared at various times in France and in Spain, where the Inquisition tried to lay hold of him; in the early part of the eighteenth century he was to be found very frequently in Belgium, where to this day there are no two names so popularly known as those of Cartaphilus and Napoleon; and lastly, as late as 1760, he was identified with a curious decrepit Israelite who went through the towns and villages of Scotland, followed by mobs of boys, and muttering to himself in the most doleful manner—"Poor Jack alone! Poor Jack alone!" Having detailed the history of the Wandering Jew's appearances, Mr. Hoffman winds up as follows.—

"I may not end this *historiette*, without expressing some unaffected surprise that, as this tradition may be found in almost every age and country, yet that so barren are the chronicles, even of the superstitious ages, that scarce fifty printed pages would suffice to quite exhaust what has been transmitted to us concerning this famous personage—and that no one has yet attempted to make even those materials assume a more narrative and connected form! A lively interest has at all times been manifested in all that relates to him. The Editor hopes, therefore, that his veritable *Chronicles* from A.D. 27 to 1850, may not only place Cartaphilus in his real and only useful point of view, but awaken the too erratic mind of the young, and of the sciolous among the aged, to the spirit of those consecutive ages, and to the philosophy of that history, civil and ecclesiastical, in which Cartaphilus so amply deals—and more especially, to the intensely interesting worth of all *prophecy*, as applied to the whole. Why, permit me to ask, should the entire story of the fated Wanderer, be suffered to repose upon a few imperfect, scattered, and often idle legends? Why, out of such a *multum in parvo*, and in this point of view, such ample and rich materials, should nought but wretched *dramas* be written, to amuse an ignorant and superstitious crowd? Or, why should even the fine conception of the 'Curse of Kehama,' or the gorgeous romance of 'Salathiel,'—which only traces the Jew *fictitiously*, during a few brief years, and in contradiction of the entire legend, and, moreover, with no adherence to utilities and probabilities, but only in the fashion of a pleasing novel,—be deemed sufficient to exhaust our interest? M. Eugène Sue, some years after these *Chronicles* were nearly in readiness for the press, saw fit to adopt a similar title for a work of loathing immorality—but of undoubted genius—in which, however, the Jew is permitted to make no figure,—is scarcely, at all, recognized as one of the *dramatis personæ*; and in which there is a strange and tedious *mélange* of magnificent descriptions, worthy of any pen, blended with much that, in manner and style, would ill suit even a daily journal! 'The *Chronicles* of Cartaphilus,' however, are spread over nearly nineteen centuries—the story of the Gallic Novelist extends over but a few years of the *present day*—the one is addressed to the moral and thoughtful—the other to the sensuous and thoughtless multitude

—the latter has been most extensively read—the other may lie dusty on the undisturbed shelf! but Cartaphilus would blush with very shame, could he suppose that his carefully elaborated and veracious chronicles, his recurrent musings, and his many ecclesiastical heterodoxies, (though often enlivened by his stories of real events, and by the details of his anomalous life) should be regarded by any one, in the least as partaking the character of a *novel*! And finally, why should the hasty notice of the Jew by Goethe, (in the mere *travestie* of the Brabantine Legend) and the few Italian, German, and other Ballads, be allowed to *fritter away* the sympathy of ages in a much cherished tradition regarding a personage, so strangely and interestingly connected even with the dawn of our holy religion; and who, if ever a Wanderer, is equally the same at this time? We therefore now refer our Reader to his only veritable and useful chronicles:—they may be found to generate some profitable thoughts in the heart and mind of every reader, who desires to deal with the long past—the present—and the future, as sources of pleasing and salutary instruction."

Such is Mr. Hoffman's part of the present volume:—all else is supposed to be by the Wandering Jew himself,—whose 'Polychronicon,' or Autobiographic Diary and Correspondence, extending from the year 27 to the year 1852, Mr. Hoffman has undertaken to edit, the Jew permitting him to omit what he may think proper, and otherwise to adapt it to the English publishing and reading world. In the present volume we have from the pen of the Jew the following lucubrations:—*first*, an Epistle to Mr. Hoffman, dated (it may be interesting to the London police to know) from Austin Friars, London, September 16, 1852; *secondly*, the first instalment of the Chronicles, embracing about two centuries of the Jew's Diary, or from the year 27 to the year 203; and *thirdly*, a letter addressed in the year 1535 to Cornelius Agrippa, and introduced into this volume by the editor, out of its proper chronological order, as being a brief exposition of the Jew's metaphysical system and his thoughts (at that period of his intellectual development) regarding Life, Death, Eternity, and things in general.

In the Epistle to his Editor the Wandering Jew, besides making many excellent philosophical remarks, and addressing some words of spiritual warning to England in connexion with Church matters, shows a little of the natural anxiety of authors (eighteen centuries old as he is, he is not exempt from this frailty,) that his autobiography should be properly appreciated. While speaking of his "close and ever-valued friend, Francis Bacon," with whom he spent many hours of colloquy, he thus takes occasion to describe the nature and aim of his 'Chronicles.'—

"The Lord Verulam saith of History, that its true province is to represent the *events* themselves, and with only the more *direct counsels*—leaving the more studied observations and conclusions thereon to the liberty and faculty of each man's judgment. And yet he further saith, 'I cannot be ignorant of a *form of writing*, which some grave and wise men have used, containing a scattered history of those actions they have thought worthy of recording, with politic discourse and observation thereon—not incorporated into the details, but separately, and as the mere principal of their intention: which kind of *ruminated history* hath place among books of policy, rather than among books of history.' Now this hath often been the *hopeful design* of these my humble Chronicles—which will be found, perhaps, a somewhat more 'ruminated' record of events, than is spoken of in the first book of the Lord Verulam's 'Advancement of Learning:' and yet, Cartaphilus trusts that the designed character of his pages will not have suffered by the many politic discourses, and other thoughtful ruminations which his very nature urged upon him, and which his *anomalous condition* perpetually cherished. But his hope still is that these, and even the *personal adventures* of the 'Wanderer,' often so anomalous, may not be found to im-

pair the worth of his Chronicles as a carefully elaborated History."

The letter to Cornelius Agrippa is, in the main, a treatise of pure metaphysick, propounding a "theory of the Trinity," and a new "Doctrine of Triads," i. e. a dissertation on what may be called the *threesomeness* of everything in the moral world. The Jew, we must say, shows himself in this treatise a clever metaphysician; and the thirty-three "illustrative examples of the doctrine of Triads," which he is at the pains to collect in order to make the doctrine clear to Cornelius, may serve the purpose of numerous Coleridgians and Okenists of the present day.

The bulk of the volume, however, consists of the chronicles of the first two centuries of the life and wanderings of the Jew. These form a most singular medley. The story opens in the twenty-fourth year of the Jew's life, when he is living in Jerusalem, a thoughtful and somewhat ambitious young man, in love with a fair girl, Rebecca, the daughter of a friend named Rabbi Eben Ezra. Letters pass and repass between Cartaphilus, the Rabbi Eben Ezra, a third person named Artemas, and others; and in these letters, as well as in the private diary of Cartaphilus, allusions are made to the contemporary progress of the teaching of John the Baptist and of Christ. The friends are extremely interested in the matter, and discuss it with each other from their various points of view:—Artemas, on the whole, tending to become a convert,—Cartaphilus growing more and more opposed to the new faith and its advocates. Events progress till Cartaphilus obtains a situation in Pilate's household; and here, circumstances bringing him and Judas Iscariot together, he becomes the chief instrument in the proceedings of the scribes and doctors against Christ. The life of Cartaphilus, after the doom pronounced upon him during these awful days, brings him in contact with all the great historical personages and facts of the first two centuries:—Paul, John and the other Apostles,—the Roman Emperors, Claudius, Nero, Vespasian, Domitian, Trajan, Hadrian, Marcus Aurelius, &c.—the writers, Flavius Josephus, Seneca, Pliny, Quintilian, Petronius Arbiter, &c.—the early Christian saints and martyrs,—and the like. In short, in the correspondence and diaries of the Wandering Jew at this period we have a bird's-eye view of all that was remarkable in the earlier portion of the Christian era,—together with a medley of meditations, disquisitions, archaeological observations, and remarks *de omnibus rebus*.

We are sorry to say, that, both as a narrator of what he saw and as an essayist and soliloquist thereupon, we find the Jew exceedingly prosy. Throwing the Jew overboard, and returning to Mr. Hoffman,—we can only speak of him as having wasted some talent, a good deal of learning, a vast amount of industry, and no small sum of money (so, at least, we should suppose, for the present volume is a bulky one closely printed in a curious small antique type), on a useless and uncouth literary freak. Can Mr. Hoffman seriously think that the public will read six enormous volumes of historical compilation, mixed with metaphysical and other discussions, because they are put forth in the guise of chronicles of the life of Cartaphilus? The Wandering Jew himself, having plenty of time on his hands, is very naturally prolix; but his Editor must consult modern convenience.

Home Life in Germany. By Charles Loring Brace. Bentley.

THIS American traveller, whose European progress went as far as Hungary, has already published an account of his residence, in 1851,

in that kingdom. The volume now produced describes what he saw of Germany on his way thither. Entering by the port of Hamburg, from Scotland, in 1850, he seems to have proceeded leisurely through the northern kingdoms; saw Holstein during its civil warfare; passed some time in Berlin, from whence excursions were made to Dresden, Halle, and adjacent regions; and after wintering in the Prussian capital, repaired, by way of Saxony and Bohemia, to Vienna,—in which city this book ends; the sequel of the journey having been made use of in the book entitled 'Hungary in 1851.' The favour with which that work was received probably induced the author to resume his journals of an earlier date, forming in one sense a Preface to the chapters on Hungary,—yet sufficiently distinct in character and subject to be viewed as a separate narrative. It may not be so tempting, indeed, as the other was to the curiosity of the moment; but it abounds in observation on points of national character and manners, which have a durable interest. Mr. Brace seems to have had fair access to German life in its middle classes, and, on the whole, makes a better use of his advantages than is common with travellers from the United States. He is willing to acquaint himself with what must be new to every American in Europe; and can perceive that there may be something for him to learn, not a little to admire, and much to like in things which have no parallel on the other side of the Atlantic,—instead of presenting himself, as his countrymen are somewhat prone to do, in the attitude of a *censor morum* and grand master of ceremonies,—whose summary rebuke of all that is strange to him in the Old World attests the vast superiority of the New. With regard to such matters, Mr. Brace is indeed the most civil and modest American we have lately seen in print; and having withal an observant eye and some ability, he not only sees more, but describes what he has seen far better, than the ignorant and conceited can ever do. His ultimate conclusions of course refer to American points of view; he is always alive to whatever enhances the credit of his own country, and may be somewhat prone to exaggerate the longings of oppressed souls in Europe for American freedom. But as all this is kept within the bounds of becoming partiality, it shows rather amiably than offensively in his pages. As a serious-minded man, he dwells on subjects that rarely occupy the attention of idler tourists. Spiritual affairs, the state of religious opinion and institutions, concern him as well as the politics and education of Germany,—each and all utterly unlike the things which bear the same names in the United States. That he should quite justly appreciate them from a point of view in every way remote, was hardly possible,—but it may be seen that he has taken pains to understand before judging, and his opinions on such topics are temperately and kindly expressed. As to lighter subjects, such as social customs, conversation, and pictures, he describes his own experiences and impressions with considerable unreserve and minuteness; but in the tone of one who, having met with a kind welcome, is grateful for kindness. For the rest, American essays on such themes are rather curious, as throwing reflected light on the different state of culture beyond the Atlantic, than indicative of what would be remarkable in these departments to European eyes. Still, here, as in all cases, a real study of human life, from whatever side, if carefully pursued, will afford some glimpses of character that others are glad to perceive:—and in Mr. Brace's interiors, although they are drily handled, and with a choice of details far from exquisite, there

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are outlines of a certain vivacity, and imitations that look like copies from nature. These give the book its value,—it being acceptable to view, however faintly, any credible tracings of the aspect of a people in whom sound worth and genial cultivation often exist under an unpretending or homely exterior.

Of such tracings, so far as Mr. Brace can afford them, some part of his "Day with a (Berlin) Burgher" will give a tolerable idea.—

"I have been invited to spend the day with my friend T—, just out of the city. It is beautiful spring weather, and I find it very delightful to be strolling out in gardens again, in this mild air. There are young ladies in the company, the daughters of my friend, and a university student of theology from Halle, a young lawyer just about to pass his *examen*, and a sociable clever fellow of middle age, who may be a physician, or a scientific man of property. They call him Doctor, and I am told he is a strong Free Trader. Some other young ladies have come in almost with me—true specimens of German beauties, with oval faces, flaxen hair in ringlets, pure speaking complexions, and eyes of clear deep blue, of which you can hardly say whether they are more expressive of reflection or feeling. There seems a good prospect of a very sociable day.—"I suppose you did not know, Herr B—, said one of the young ladies, as I came in, 'that we are having a holiday for the mother's silver wedding?' I told her I did not, and unfortunately, did not even know what the silver wedding was. 'So! I suppose you have no such things in your practical Fatherland. *Bien*, in Germany, when a couple have been married twenty-five years, they celebrate the silver wedding, and the friends make them presents, and if they are good *fromme Leute*—pious people, they go to church and have a ceremony, and it's all a grand holiday. We Berliners leave out the church part, but we always have a merry time. Of course you know no more, what the *golden wedding* is?'—'Alas! no.'—'That is for the couple who have been married fifty years, and it is the custom in many parts, for them then to be married over again in church!—I professed myself very glad to have part in such a pleasant thing, and we turned to join with the rest of the company. The ladies at once sat down with their baskets of worsted and silks, and we of the male part, strolled out in the gardens. I asked soon in regard to the betrothal in North Germany—whether that was also much celebrated. They said, it was not; there was usually a formal announcement—nothing more. 'You will find,' said the Doctor, 'that these pretty customs of which you hear so much as German, are not much observed in North Germany. They are more Southern. We here are more cosmopolitan. I have been a great deal in England, and I notice very little difference in outward matters, between our country and that. We are more social, and we like a good home-chat and frolic; but as for superstitions and interesting customs, we have few of them.'—I told him, that there was one thing in which I found a great difference between the two countries, and for which I liked the Germans—that was, the very few distinctions of rank here. 'I have never heard,' said I, 'a German talking about any other class or set, as if he especially troubled himself with it; and for all that is said, I should never know that an order of nobility existed here.'—'You are right, to a degree,' he replied. 'We Germans usually enjoy what we have, without asking whether others enjoy more or less, and we know little about the English, and as I understand your American—jealousy of those above us. Perhaps it is, because no one ever expects in Germany to be anything more than his father is.'—'But,' interrupted the young lawyer, 'the Herr Americaner has not known all our ladies yet. If you only could see the stout lady of our *chef*, how indignant she is if a single title is left out. 'The Madame Councillor of the Court, and Professor and County Magistrate, &c. &c.' I have only to string all these together, and add a *von* in the end, and I can put her into a heavenly humour!—'But, where are the young ladies?' said the Doctor, as we entered the house again, through one of the large windows on the balcony. 'Why, you know, Doctor,' said one of those who had come in with me, 'that we all have come rather early; and Fräulein S— must oversee

the kitchen awhile, and L— is engaged up-stairs. You find all this,' turning to me, '*echt Deutsch*, genuinely German, I dare say! We hear ladies never trouble themselves about such things in America.' I assured her it was quite a mistake; it depended entirely on the lady's position and circumstances. 'Well, you at least see a difference in the place a lady occupies in the two countries!' they continued; 'confess that your American lady is very much flattered.'"

For a debate which ensues, on the *status* of woman in Germany and in America respectively, readers may be referred to the volume itself. But the author's remark at its close, on the lady-pleaders in a case so interesting to themselves, is worth noting, as a proof of the fairness of his perceptions.—

"In each of these German women there was a greater *distinctness* of nature; a play of passion and feeling which might be ill-governed sometimes, but which was very beautiful because it was *hers*, and was the effect of no instruction or public opinion. The Continental people seem to me, in general, to show more of that most pleasing and exquisite variety of nature which God has bestowed on all his works, and which no creed and no system has the right to mar. It is possible the 'expression' here was much improved by the full and sweet tones of these ladies. I know not why it is, but our Yankee schools or Yankee air, has given rise to the most disagreeable intonation which anywhere disfigures the voices of a cultivated people. An American (from the Northern States) is known almost anywhere in Europe from his nasal twang and whine. Want of refinement and education will produce in every country bad modulations and tones of voice, which, even in different languages, do not essentially differ from one another. But in America people the most refined show this nasal defect of tone. It is comparatively rare, in New England, to meet a lady without some tinge of it, and the preachers manifest it almost universally. I have no doubt that if any one physical cause could explain the superior natural oratory in our Southern States, during our whole history, it would be their superiority in voice. It is remarkable how seldom the Americans themselves are conscious of this defect. Throughout Europe—especially, however, in Ireland and Hungary—this richness of tone struck my ear."

One of the reflected glances already mentioned, will be found in the author's statement of his object in producing this volume.—

"I have tried to give a true picture of German Social Life, and all will, of course, draw their own conclusions. But I do not hesitate to confess that a definite purpose has been before me. It has seemed to me that in this universal greed for money, in this clangour and whirl of American life, in the extravagant habits everywhere growing up, and in the little heed given to quiet home enjoyment, or to the pleasures from Art and Beauty, a voice from those calm, genial old German homes, might be of good to us;—telling of a more simple, economical habit, of sunny and friendly hospitalities, of quiet cultured tastes, and of a Social Life, whose affection and cheerfulness make the outside world as nothing in the comparison."

Altogether, indeed, the book may be more profitable to the public for which it was designed than it can be to ours. But without regard to a special audience, it may be termed readable; and being written with creditable pains and in a good spirit, it deserves a friendly notice.

A Naturalist's Rambles on the Devonshire Coast. By Philip Henry Gosse. Van Voorst.

THERE are few intelligent persons in this country who have not seen or heard of the Aqua-vivarium in the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park. There, sporting in their native element, in all their splendid variety of form and of colour, are to be seen the creatures whose dwelling is the deep sea. Most of these have, we believe, been captured and sent to the Gardens by the author

of this volume. Nay, more, in its pages Mr. Gosse claims to be the originator of Marine Vivaria. Now, whatever may have been our author's merits in assisting to carry out the idea, we assert ourselves to have been the first suggestors of the marine tanks in the Regent's Park Gardens. Years ago, and from time to time since, we have urged—from our knowledge of the fact of fresh-water fish being easily kept in glass vessels—that the Zoological Society should carry out this plan,—should present us, by its means, with living forms of which thousands existed, and of which even naturalists had little knowledge. We have them at last:—and readily concede the principal amount of credit to Mr. Mitchell, the Secretary to the Society, for the way in which the thing has been carried out.

All who visit the beautiful exhibition in question will be anxious to know something more about the Actinia, star-fishes, jelly-fishes, crabs, and Mollusca that are to be seen there;—and we do not know that we could recommend a better book for their object than this by Mr. Gosse. The animals in the tanks of the Gardens have been taken from the coasts where Mr. Gosse wrote his book:—hence, his pages are principally occupied in describing the habits and structure of these very creatures. Of the beautiful forms that there meet the eye, the most striking, from their gaudy colours and varied shapes, are the Sea Anemones. They are amongst the simplest of the animal tribes. One species which is now to be seen in the Regent's Park is frequent on the Devonshire coast. We give Mr. Gosse's account of it. He calls it the Daisy Anemone,—but he should have added the qualifying term "sea." It is the *Sea Anemone*.—

"All along this line of limestone rock, in almost every tide-pool and hollow that retains the sea-water, from the size of one's hand upwards, we may at any time find colonies of the lovely Daisy Anemone, *Actinia bellia*. In the sunshine of a fair day they expand beautifully, and you may see them studding the face of the rock just beneath the surface, from the size of a shilling to that of a crown piece. Nothing seems easier than to secure them, but no sooner do the fingers touch them, than its beautifully circular disk begins to curl and pucker its margin, and to incur in it the form of a cup; if further annoyed, the rim of this cup contracts more and more, until it closes, and the animal becomes globose and much diminished, receding all the time from the assault, and retiring into the rock. Presently you discover that you can no longer touch it at all: it is shrunk to the bottom of its hole; the sharp irregular edges of which project and furnish a stony defence to the inhabitant. Nothing will do but the chisel, and this is by no means easy of appliance. It is rare that the position of the hole is such as to allow of both arms working with any ease; the rock is under water, and often, if your chisel is short, it is wholly immersed during the work, when every blow which the hammer strikes upon its head has to fall upon a stratum of water, which splashes forcibly into your eyes and over your clothes; the rock is very hard, and the chisel makes little impression; and what is frequently the greatest disappointment of all, the powdery *débris* produced by the bruising of the stone mingles with the water and presently makes it perfectly opaque, as if a quantity of powdered chalk had been mixed with it, so that you cannot see how to direct the blows, you cannot discern whether you have uncovered the *Actinia* or not, and frequently are obliged to give up the attempt when nearly accomplished, simply because you can neither see hole nor *Actinia*, and as to feeling in the pap-like mud that your implement has been making, it is out of the question. Supposing, however, that you have got on pretty well, that by making a current in the pool with your hand you have washed away the clouded water sufficiently to see the whereabouts, and that you perceive that another well-directed blow or two will split off the side of the cavity,—you have now to take care so to proportion the force that at last you may neither crush the

animal with the chisel on the one hand, nor on the other drive it off so suddenly that it shall fall with the fragment to the bottom of the pool out of reach. However, we will suppose you have happily detached and secured your *Actinia* without injury. But how unlike its former self, when you were desirous of making its closer acquaintance, is it now! A little hard globose knob of flesh, not so big as a schoolboy's marble, is the creature that just now expanded to the sun's rays a lovely disk of variegated hues, with a diameter greater than that of a Spanish dollar. It is moreover covered with tenacious white slime, which exudes from it faster than you can clear it away; and altogether its appearance is any thing but inviting. You throw it into a jar of water, which of course you have with you when collecting living zoophytes; and thus bring it home, when you transfer it to a tumbler or other suitable vessel of clear sea-water freshly drawn. And here let us watch its changes;—which, however, will not be effected immediately; for it will not expand itself in all its original beauty until it has taken a fresh attachment for its base, which will not in all probability be for a day or two at least. The body or stem of *Actinia bellis* is more or less cylindrical generally; though subject to some change in this respect, for it is occasionally a little enlarged, as it approaches the dish; the sucking base is slightly larger than the diameter of the body, which in specimens of an inch-and-a-half expanse, may be about half an inch. The length of the body varies much, according to the depth of the cavity in which the animal lives, for it must expand its disk at the surface. In the open water in a vase, when it appears at home, it may commonly be about an inch from the base to the expansion of the disk, but I have a beautiful specimen before my eye at this moment, which has stretched itself to a height of three inches, expanding at the extremity as usual: the thickness of the stem is in this case somewhat diminished."

—These beautiful creatures may be easily kept in a jar of sea-water with a few green sea-weeds for any length of time. Their colours are as rich as those of our most favourite flowers, and their changing forms and animal instincts invest them with a higher interest. We have now before us a glass jar containing several specimens of the White Sea Anemone which were taken at the beginning of last August,—and which exhibit all their original vivacity, although the water in which they are living has never been once changed.

From the thousands who have visited the Zoological Gardens to see these marine creatures we should not suspect much disposition to ask the *cui bono* of such an exhibition. Should, however, such a thought have crossed the mind of an alderman just refreshed from his basin of turtle-soup for luncheon, we beg to inform him that sea anemones are good to eat. Mr. Gosse has tried them, as Dictionnaire had done before him,—and both authorities pronounce them good. We may expect ere long to find Aquavivaria in each cook-shop, with a notice in the window of "*Actinias* fresh from the Tank."

It must not, however, be supposed that Mr. Gosse's book is confined to accounts of the *Actinia*. Everything that had life in it on the sea-shore had an interest for him; and the enthusiasm with which he investigated the objects that he met with he has communicated to his descriptions, so that the reader follows his minutest details with pleasure. We meet in his volume with lively accounts of the scenery, antiquities, and local associations of the district.

We have said enough to show that Mr. Gosse's book is of a very interesting character. Though descriptive of one particular part of the coast, the animals described, or their representatives, are inhabitants of all parts:—so that the book may be used generally as an instructive guide to the sea-shore. The letter-press is accompanied with twenty-eight plates, most of which are coloured—illustrative of new animals, or of the structure of others which Mr. Gosse has observed. Of these sketches, there

are several on which the microscope has been employed,—and which will be found of high interest to those who use this instrument.

Civil Wars and Monarchy in France in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries: a History of France principally during that Period. By Leopold Ranke. Translated by M. A. Garvey. 2 vols. Bentley.

History of the Protestants of France, from the Commencement of the Reformation to the Present Time. Translated from the French of G. de Félice, D.D. 2 vols. Longman & Co.

The Same. Translated from the second revised and corrected edition, by P. E. Barnes. Routledge & Co.

THE story of the Reformation in France would seem to be growing in public interest on this side of the water. A few years ago this story was almost unknown to English readers,—and many suggestions have been made for taking up the unappropriated theme. Hume pressed it seriously on Robertson. "The events," he wrote to his brother historian, "are important in themselves, and intimately connected with the great revolutions of Europe." In later times, as our readers will remember, Mr. Macaulay advised Sir James Stephen, when that gentleman consulted him as to the selection of a theme for his first course of lectures on Modern History, to apply himself to the description and elucidation of the religious wars of France. The grounds of this preference were not stated by the historian,—at least, not beyond the mere fact that these wars are rich in interest and not yet worn threadbare by writers:—but reasons enough are not difficult to discover.

Germany was no doubt the real battle-ground of the Reformation,—for, its issues were there tried alike by pen and by sword. Yet France has also a peculiar and a most attractive place in the history of that great event. In the far north and west of Europe, the intellectual development pursued its course and took a definite shape, not without trouble and confusion, but without the horrors of a civil war. In the south and east, the movement was arrested, kept back, and eventually all but suppressed. But in the centre of Europe—in Germany and in France—the two powers were more nearly on a level, so that when the argument failed on either side there was no hesitation in appealing to the sword. In the outside countries, the story of that great rising of the human intellect against obsolete forms and hierarchical traditions has many a thrilling and romantic episode,—but it is in the central States, where the tides of feeling and opinion met in their full power, that the tragic interest rises to the greatest height.

The history of France is necessary at all times to a proper understanding of the history of other nations,—for, it has been the peculiar feature of that restless and vivacious people to break through effete laws, to give the initiative of change, and to prepare new policies for Europe. In this modelling and remodelling of the outward life of nations it is at least impartial,—for it destroys the systems which it has itself helped to form as unceremoniously as it destroys the work of any other race. Thus, after fixing the law of hereditary succession, it overturned that law in the Carolingians. It had scarcely established the order of the Magnates ere it began to undermine their power. Again, after bearing for ages the title of Most Christian Nation, it was the first to violate the Roman hierarchic system by an alliance with the German Reformers. France was the first of Continental nations to set aside representative institutions,—and afterwards broke out into a sanguinary revolution to get them back. It was the birth-

place of the absolute monarchy,—and when its system had taken root in Spain, Italy, and the German States, it sent its legions forth to overturn despotic thrones from Madrid to Moscow. The whole story of that country down to the present time is a history of trials, failures, crusades, and contradictions. France established the European system as an alliance against the East,—and was the first Christian power in the West to recognize and treat with the Osmanli. Every page of modern history attests the enduring character of these at once formative and revolutionary tendencies. Nor does France appear to be less willing to take from other nations than it is to give in return. No nation of equal standing in the world owes so much to other nations. From Italy she received her literary culture, her artistic aptitudes. Her monarchy was founded on the model of that of Spain. Her internal religious movements have all commenced beyond the Rhine. Her political ideas—however modified and mutilated in their existing shape—were nearly all drawn in the first instance from England. It is this eagerness to give and to receive—to project or to rearrange ideas, systems, projects,—that makes the history of France, as we have said, an indispensable adjunct to all special histories of other countries,—that sometimes centres the dramatic interests of the whole human story on a single point of her territory. It was thus during the religious wars,—it was again thus during the successive phases of the Revolution.

This exceptional character of French history renders it needful not only for English and German readers to make themselves familiar with it while pursuing the threads of their own, but that the story shall be regarded from other than the purely French point of sight. The religious wars were European events. The great actors of the drama—Francis the First, Catherine de Medicis, Admiral Coligny, Henri Quatre, the Chancellor De l'Hôpital, Richelieu, and Louis the Fourteenth—are European characters, and belong to general history almost as much as Napoleon and his senators and marshals. These are reasons why an English or a German writer might aspire to write an original work on such a theme: for the conception of a great epoch will almost of necessity vary with the media through which that epoch is regarded. But there are other reasons. Singularly enough, these religious wars have been much neglected by modern French writers. Until the appearance of Dr. de Félice's work—of which two translations are now before us—the reader in search of information on the subject was obliged to resort to Mezerai or some other old writer who had not even professed to give the subject a special cultivation. Why this neglect has arisen, we need not now pause to inquire,—and we will content ourselves with remarking, that until quite recently our own Civil Wars suffered equal wrong at the hands of writers and readers, and that we have not even yet a tolerable account of the great transactions of those times in England. There is, of course, a large body of contemporary writings on the subject of the religious wars of France—which are condensed in Mezerai's "*Histoire de France*." Since Mezerai's time a vast amount of traditional matter had been gathered in illustration of persons and events, all of which Sismondi has used in his work. There are, however, doubts, even among Frenchmen, as to the value of the traditional matter,—and a cautious writer would quote it only sparingly and with the proper qualifications. For the most part, French historians—and Sismondi amongst the number—are fond of gossiping, out-of-the-way and romantic materials,—and they are often apt to employ them in a way "to

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make the judicious grieve." M. Ranke exhibits his usual good sense in sometimes rejecting these apocryphal traditions.

Few men—and still fewer foreigners—could have brought so many requisites to a task like this as our German author. He cannot pretend to the Frenchman's vivacity, his style, his literary art; but he makes up these deficiencies by unwearied labour and solid sagacity. Already the historian of the Popes who reigned in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, M. Ranke is fully informed as to the Italian side of the question; while his previous German studies had put him in possession of all the leading events beyond the Rhine. Of his additional materials he gives the following account in a preface.—

"For a closer examination of the truth of facts, the original documentary matter published in France during the last ten years, as well as that which has appeared in the Netherlands and in Italy, none of which has ever before been used, I have found of the greatest value. I have in the progress of the work had opportunities of drawing my information from a vast number of unprinted documents:—Italian relations from the Venetian ambassadors and the Papal Nuncios at Paris, to their respective courts, extending over the whole period; Spanish and English correspondence relating to some of the most important years, the former having reference to the sixteenth, the latter to the seventeenth century; letters and proclamations of French kings and statesmen; rolls of the estates, and records of the parliamentary debates; diplomatic communications and many other original sources of information, much of which deserves to be published in its entire extent. These documents have given me valuable information at all times, and have not unfrequently decided my historical convictions. I may take another opportunity of giving a detailed account of them. They are to be found, not in the French and English libraries alone, but also in the archives of Italy, Germany and Belgium,—for all took an interest in that which affected all."

The work opens with a long—and, as it seems to us, somewhat unnecessary—review, in the style of a magazine article, of the settlement of the Romans in Gaul and the subsequent career of the Romanized Gallo-Frankish kingdom. This is the least satisfactory part of M. Ranke's volumes. The real story does not commence until the accession of Francis the First, at one time the greatest figure of his age—and one of the greatest revolutionists of all ages perhaps, though history has never formally assigned that character to the brilliant, profligate and artistic monarch. He it was who gave the most fatal blow to the parliamentary *régime*. He for ever broke up the State-system of the Church. He was the first to stretch a hand to the Turk. In him absolute kingship became a fixed fact in the European world. The Emperor Maximilian once remarked, that he, the Emperor, was a king of kings—for nobody thought it a duty to pay him obedience,—that Philip of Spain was a king of men, for he was opposed by his people at the same time that he was obeyed,—but that the King of France was a king of beasts, for no one dared to refuse him obedience!

Of this powerful sovereign we have a very carefully drawn portrait in these volumes.—

"Francis I. impressed the beholder with the idea of a handsome man full of vital power. His appearance was so remarkable, that it threw all around him into the shade: his figure was tall, with a broad breast and shoulders, and long flowing brown hair; his complexion was ruddy, and, although his countenance might have been deficient in a certain refinement of expression, everything about him breathed of manhood, enjoyment of life, and a consciousness of his princely position. * * He lived and delighted in those bodily exercises which the renewed idea of chivalry enjoined as a duty. He was accustomed to practise the knightly sport of arms in the burning heat of the sun, and sought out by preference the

most vigorous opponent with whom to measure himself; he has been known to break his lance sixty times in one day. As he was the handsomest man in the company, he had also the ambition to appear the strongest and most dexterous. Once, when at Amboise, he caused a wild boar, four years old, to be driven from the forest into the court-yard of the castle, in order that the company that attended him might witness the ferocity of the beast; the boar however burst through a door which had not been well secured, and rushed into the castle. The company fled in all directions; but the King advanced towards the raging brute, and with great force and skill inflicted upon him a deep wound, of which he bled to death in the court-yard in a few moments; he would not suffer any one else to undertake the dangerous adventure. He gave himself up passionately to the pleasures of the chase, and whilst thus engaged was more than once in danger of his life: on one occasion a stag hurled him from the saddle by a thrust of his antlers; but such accidents made no impression upon him. He never troubled himself about wind or weather, and no hovel was too miserable to furnish him with a harbour for the night. As he grew older and more corpulent, he used to ride to the chase upon a mule. A Venetian ambassador, on one occasion, remonstrated with him for having gone to hunt in severely cold weather, when his health was not quite perfect. 'On my word,' answered the King, 'it has made me well again.'"

Yet Francis was a man of extremely delicate organization,—and his susceptibilities to the purer pleasures and the activities of intellect were easily awakened. He was a famous patron of the arts. Paris owed to him the matchless edifice of the Louvre,—and Leonardo da Vinci—of whom the King said that "he never knew a man who knew more"—an exalted friendship. He had the virtues of chivalry as well as its vices.—One or two traits of his character were very endearing. For instance, as M. Ranke writes—

"During the first years of his reign the relation in which he had grown-up continued for a long period. His mother exercised a great influence on all his resolutions. Foreigners were astonished at the veneration he showed for her: he never addressed her except with his cap in hand, and nearly upon his knees; he visited her every day after dinner or in the evening, and related to her the various matters that had occupied him during the day."

And again:—

"Henry, the second son of Francis I., who was now Dauphin, was married to Catharine de' Medici, of Florence. For a long time they had no children, and, as she was by many not deemed his equal in birth, the idea of sending her back to Florence began to be spoken of. Catharine herself, wise and resolute as she was, came to the King, and offered to depart, whilst a flood of tears choked her language. 'My child,' replied the King, 'as God has willed that you should be my daughter-in-law, such shall you remain.' This act is worthy of high estimation, for Francis was anxiously fearful that none of his sons would have male issue, and that his race would therefore become extinct in the second generation."

The progress of the new ideas then spreading in the neighbouring countries was watched with interest, and their teachers were protected by the favour of Francis and of his sister, the famous Queen of Navarre. How far this favourable leaning was the result of policy—how far of a real conviction—is involved in doubt, and M. Ranke has done nothing to clear up the difficulty. The Queen's opinions never wandered very far from the Church doctrine and discipline,—and she was probably sincere in her expressions of sympathy, so far as it went, with the Reformers. Francis—who had various intricate and vexatious discussions with the Papacy on hand—was probably guided by political motives. This is suggested in a characteristic anecdote. During a conference with the Papal nuncio, Francis is said to have remarked rather sharply that unless the Pope would agree to terms he

would protect the heretics as his royal brother of England had done. "Sire," said the other, "you would lose more than the Pope,—for a new religion demands a new King." Perhaps it was some such fear as this which kept the reigning house of France true to the old faith: for it is historically certain that in the countries where the Reformation took root, the dynasties were changed either then or soon afterwards.

The great opponent of the Reformation in France was the Sorbonne,—an institution founded to be a centre of illumination for Europe. Francis loved the Sorbonne as little as he loved parliaments. He wished to reign alone. But he saw that a sceptre is not always the best weapon with which to combat a pen,—and he meditated the establishment of a great philosophical institution, at the head of which he would have placed Erasmus, with a view of neutralizing the effects of the monkish systems of thinking and teaching. But his power was not equal to his will—absolute monarch as he was,—and he could not save even his personal favourites from the stake.—

"Louis de Berquin enjoyed the special favour of the King. He was, of all then living, perhaps the man who united in himself most vividly the notions of Erasmus with those of Luther. With a taunting ridicule, like the former, he attacked the disorders of the cloister and the evils of celibacy, regarding them from a religious and moral point of view, and fully exposing their corruptions; but he also showed a great esteem for the depth of the latter,—for the maxim that all Christians were priests, and an almost enthusiastic conception of the doctrines of grace and faith, and of the true church communion. The King, one time, soon after his return from Spain, liberated Berquin from the ecclesiastical prison; but he made it a point of honour not to retreat before such enemies, and considered himself able to convict Beda, the Syndic of the Sorbonne, and the leader of the delegation, of holding heretical opinions. What Francis I. might have done had the contest he undertook in Italy ended in victory on his side, we cannot say; but, as Erasmus once remarked, in a warning to Berquin, the defeat which the King suffered had weakened his authority even in domestic affairs; and when Berquin was once more charged with heresy, the royal influence was insufficient to save him a second time, and he was burned on the Place de Grève in the year 1529. The people, over whom the preachers of the Sorbonne had always preserved the greatest influence, showed less sympathy for the unhappy victim than at other times for the most abandoned criminal."

After the death of Francis, the sympathies of the Court were openly transferred to the other side,—and the foul chasm into which some of the noblest blood of France was destined to be poured began to open wider and wider. M. Ranke attempts to paint the state of manners and prevalent ideas just before the epoch of the Civil War opens,—but his strength does not lie in this species of literary work; and in his narrative we miss the salient point, the telling anecdote, that should suggest a condition of society by a single trait, a speech, or a repartee. What he says of Rabelais, as an interpreter of the moral life of that time, is, however, closely to the point.—

"Whoever desires to understand the ideas and opinions of those times fully, must read Rabelais. In the picture of licentiousness, full of repulsive nudities, which he unfolds, lies concealed a profound seriousness. Rabelais is one of the few masters of satire who has depicted the failings of a whole epoch in great and truthful outlines. He cites the errors of all classes before the tribunal of sound human understanding:—the extravagance of the chiefs of the land, permitted by over-indulgent kings; the disorders of the capital, which the King, to the astonishment of strangers, did not better suppress by the administration of justice; the abuses of justice itself,—its forms confusing and entangling the causes,—its multiplied documents in the process—and at

last its decisions arrived at as if by the chances of the dice; the grinding of the revenue chamber, which knew how to draw its drink-money from all that came before it. How little do they know him who think that his allusions are chiefly directed to the trifling occurrences which took place at court, or to insignificant personages! The manifold grievances and anxieties of the nation, which did not yet venture to show themselves openly, appear in the ingenious fancy-pieces of the patriot in the fool's-cap. His most important aim, however, is the state of religious affairs. The adventurous and gigantic heroes, in whose education the change of times is represented, share the convictions of the Protestants: they will no longer endure the false prophets, and in gratitude for their victory, simply cause the true Gospel to be preached. In accordance with the disposition of the age, he mocks in the bitterest manner the hypocritical monks who mark their abodes by disgusting debauchery. But the satirist leads us still deeper into the secrets of the clerical condition. He depicts the Golden Book of the Decretals, with its marvellous power of conferring happiness upon the faithful, and of destroying the unbelievers; the prisons in which the new heretics were pining, and the punishments they endured; until at last we see the monster itself, from which all these torments proceed—at the same time a ravening wolf and a fawning dog, whose paws are full of blood, its claws like the claws of a harpy, and above its lair the image of Injustice. There is something sublime in the terrific grotesques of this description."

Rabelais has not, indeed, been sufficiently studied for historical purposes. A monk of two orders, Franciscan and Benedictine, a prebend and a *curé*,—a friend of Calvin, on the one side, and of Admiral du Belloy on the other,—he had the very best means of knowing the clerical system of his times, as well as the follies of the great world outside the Church walls. Whether his satirical novel was intended to represent real characters, as has often been supposed,—and M. Ranke seems to share in this supposition,—is rather doubtful. If it be difficult to find Francis the First in Gargantua, it is almost impossible to recognize Henry the Second in Pantagruel. We may add, that this notion of a real historical basis in Gargantua has been combated with great force by Charles Nodier. But while it is doubtful whether Rabelais intended more than a casual reference to real men and real events,—there is no doubt that in his celebrated romance we have a picture, true in its main features, of the life and manners of the age in which it was written.

On a future occasion we shall have to return to these volumes.

Legends of Old London. By John Yonge Akerman. Hall, Virtue & Co.

WHEN we saw these 'Legends of Old London' announced, we thought they would most probably consist of a collection of those pleasant tales—half fiction, half tradition—on one of which the author of 'Edward Osborne' lately founded her graceful autobiography of the Clothworker's apprentice. This seemed the more likely, inasmuch as Mr. Akerman ranks among antiquaries, and the antiquary is a great lover of traditional lore:—not unwisely, for the tradition, if not true to fact, is true to the characteristics of the times, and thus is valuable as an illustration of history, though it may not claim the importance of history itself.

On turning over the volume before us, we however found that all the eight tales are fictions; and that although each legend professes to illustrate a particular ward, Farringdon might change places with Bridge Ward, or Cheap with Portoken, for aught especial that we can find in the respective stories. Still, this would have been of only slight consequence, had the tales been illustrative of old London and her inhabitants; but although we have accurate descrip-

tions—and very minute ones, too—of dress, and though the citizens duly swear by City saints, and Sanctuary men quarrel and scold in King Cambyse's vein, still the state of society as represented is such that nobody could have lived in it for a week together.

Take the first story,—which fills half the volume. A moody savage old Knight, who lives in Fleet Street, has a daughter, the Lady Isabel, who makes him a grandfather; whereupon he rages, and determines that the poor child shall be murdered,—and having a melo-dramatic steward, always in tears and always in trouble, he consults him about it. Meanwhile, the lady's husband comes in the dead of the night to see her,—and being encountered by the savage old Knight, is pitched by him from a high gallery, and has his neck broken. We have next a chapter devoted to the inquest;—from which we learn, that in those days the person who caused the death was not even summoned before it,—and so a verdict of "chance medley" is returned, and the old Knight is at liberty to murder his grandson. Then, one dark night, he sends the steward out with "the brat," and a bag and a stone to drown it. The child is not, however, drowned; for, after the approved plan, he is laid at a merchant's door, who brings him up with his own two children. It is pleasant to find, that the wicked old Knight soon after pitches himself from the same gallery from which he flung the Lady Isabel's husband, and dies;—so, his daughter becomes a nun at St. Helen's. When her son grows up, he is loved by his foster-sister and hated by his foster-brother;—so he sets off to France for the sake of peace,—and returns just in the middle of Jack Cade's rising. This forms quite a series of horrible tableaux:—of which the following is a specimen.—

"Curiosity to see how so daring a fellow would demean himself in his last moments was the only feeling which animated the followers of Cade. Hollis, nevertheless, continued to abuse them. 'Ha! ye Kentish clowns!' cried he, 'many of ye will come to this pass anon, and the crows will be eating your eyes on Traitors' Gate yonder! My mother was a skipper's wife, and taught me to mumble my prayers, but, by St. Christopher, I ha' forgotten them all. She often swore I should die in my shoes, but here's to prove her a liar.' With these words he kicked off both his heavy shoes into the air. One of them flew through the latticed window of the inn, and the other lighted on the head of Robin of Beaksbourne, who stood at the door to watch the mortal exit of the ruffian. 'Gra'mercy, thou devil's bird!' cried Robin; 'but for my sallet, thou wouldest have broken my head!' At that moment the executioner, who had securely fastened the rope to the beam, turned the ladder, and the body of the wretched man was seen gyrating in the air, and agitated by horrible convulsions. The prolonged struggles of the miserable creature raised a cry of horror, and some of the more feeling of the rebel host called out to their comrades to shoot him, and put an end to his sufferings. Two bows were instantly bent, and a couple of arrows, hastily discharged went whistling over the heads of the crowd. One of them missed its object, but the other was buried deep in the breast of the criminal, whose life it terminated in a moment. The arrow, shot upward, had pierced the body at about an angle of forty degrees, and the heart's blood of the sufferer, trickling down the shaft, dyed the feather with which it was winged, and dripped on the heads of those below. Bragge cast a look of horror at his fellow-criminal, and fainted. By the help of strong waters Bragge was restored to consciousness, and in five minutes more he was preceding the executioner up the ladder, the very personification of abject misery. He no longer uttered complaints, but appeared in a kind of stupor, from which the tying of the cord to the beam, and the sight of the dead body of his comrade, were now not sufficient to rouse him. His pinioned arms just allowed him to clasp his hands together, as if in supplication, and as he

did so the executioner nimbly thrust him from the ladder, and, leaping on the culprit, sat upon his shoulders to increase the weight. There was a buzz of savage admiration at this feat, and some of the rebels applauded Fludd for his dexterity."

The strife soon becomes general; and the young hero of the tale, after performing prodigies of valour, closes in desperate combat with an unknown foe. He vanquishes his enemy, of course:—and on the beaver of the latter being raised, discovers him to be his foster-brother. "O, Richard! forgive me," is his exclamation; "speak, speak to me."—"A smile of concentrated malice distorted the features of the dying youth. Collecting all his strength, he spat the bloody foam which mantled on his lips in the face of the speaker!"—and died. The survivor, mortally wounded, is carried to St. Helen's:—where, recognizing both his mother and his lady-love, he also dies.

Truly, this is doleful enough:—nor is 'The Mercer's Wife' much less so. In this story, a worthy mercer has a fair but false wife, who, in the dress of a page, pawns her husband's jewels to provide money for her paramour. They flee away; and the mercer following, kills the knight in single combat,—and then, returning to his home, finds that his wife has poisoned herself.

But perhaps the most extravagant of these "Legends" is, 'The Alderman.' The story is the well-known one of 'La Juive';—but how Jews came to live in London in the fifteenth century, and to attend Synagogue, too, is strange,—since the fact, that from the reign of Edward the First to the days of the Protectorate the Jews had no dwelling in England, has hitherto been considered as an uncontested fact. We are, however, here told, that one Abraham dwelt at Aldgate with his fair daughter Miriam, who had charmed the nephew and heir of 'the Alderman,' and who "had been seen walking in Finsbury Fields" (!) with him. This news comes to 'the Alderman's' ears,—and he is naturally very wroth; but, that he should be surprised when Father John tells him it is through witchcraft that his son has been seduced, is surprising to us,—since we think that such is the opinion of all others which an alderman in the fifteenth century would have formed. However, this leads to a thrilling chapter, bearing the tempting name of "The Question Chamber,"—in which we are introduced to a spacious apartment in Newgate, with painted windows! "On one side was ranged a row of stalls of carved oak, and within sat several men in furred robes and gold chains,—the bald head of an ecclesiastic was seen among the Judges." A curious scene this, and a curious jumble of criminal and ecclesiastical authority. But more curious still is the picture of an executioner, with "that hideous instrument of a barbarous age, the rack." Does not Mr. Akerman know that torture was never recognized by our common law—never even thought of in our criminal courts,—and was only surreptitiously used in the bishops' courts? However, in close imitation of Victor Hugo's horrible scene in 'Notre Dame,' our author proceeds,—and with Miriam's death-like faint on the rack concludes his chapter. Then we have her, just like "la Juive," brought forth to be burnt in Smithfield; but she is rescued by her lover,—who in the disguise of a Mendicant friar stands by, and at the appointed time, with his friends, lays vigorously about him, drives away billmen and sheriffs, and mounting on horseback with her, rides off. But even now, Mr. Akerman must give us a doleful finish. The two lovers, riding on towards Barking Creek—rather a long journey from Smithfield,—are overtaken; when, to escape capture, they plunge into the river,—the Lea, we suppose,—and,

together with two friends, are drowned. Meanwhile, the old Jew has sought the Alderman, and told him that Miriam was a Christian child. "Hearken! One night three of my brethren came to me. 'Up, Abraham,' said they. I followed. We reached a vault; a fire burnt brightly:—they were about to sacrifice a child to the Spirit of Evil, and that child was a Christian's." This child is Miriam, the daughter, not of the Jew, but of the Alderman:—who, learning this, dies—like everybody else worth caring about in these terrible stories.

Now, we should have passed this over had a young lady or gentleman professing only a superficial knowledge of past times published the volume before us; but when a gentleman who figures in Antiquarian Societies does this, and introduces a dissertation on the state of the Jews in England, we expect somewhat of accuracy even though there be little research. But our author seems to indulge in the old-time proof of a Christian—that of hating the Jews most heartily:—for thus he speaks of them.—

"Although humanity shudders at the brutal excesses to which this people were repeatedly subjected in the middle ages, there is nevertheless good reason to believe that their rapacity, cunning, and extortion sometimes provoked such treatment; for their wealth was even then proverbial, and they continued to reside in such cities as were profitable to them, notwithstanding the outrages to which they were occasionally exposed, so powerful, so all-absorbing is the passion of avarice. There are many reasons why the Jews cannot acquire a footing in society. The fierce bigotry of former ages rendered them the most wretched of human creatures, and the Jew at the present day cannot forget that he lives among the descendants of those who persecuted his race; hatred of the Christians is the legacy bequeathed to him through many generations. Necessity has made numbers of them worldly and vicious—an assertion which is verified by the fact, that a Jew always prefers trading with Christians to dealing with people of his own race. * * As regards the wealthier Jews, the hereditary dislike of those whose creed they despise cannot be extinguished so soon as some of our so-called philanthropists suppose; but, as our fair readers will think we are becoming political, and vote us a bore if we say more on this subject, we will leave the tribe of Israel, and forbear further remarks; lest we should be tempted to express a doubt of their 'usefulness' to a state, in opposition to the notions of a certain member of our legislature, who perhaps may have cogent reasons for forming such an opinion."

Such are the three principal stories:—the five short ones are not quite so bad—two even end happily,—although there is plenty of quarrelling and fighting, and a fine scene of pillorying, together with two murders. Now, when we remember how important it is that *healthful* fiction should be provided for readers whose tastes prefer amusement to instruction, and how in skilful hands the historical sketch may often provide both, we cannot part from this little volume without expressing a wish that tales more truthful, more pleasant, and of healthier character may be provided for future "Railway Reading."—We have long suspected that of late in the department of fiction,—

who peppered the highest was surest to please!

—and truly, to those who delight in extra-peppered condiments this book may be welcome; but for readers who feel no delight in an endless succession of horrors, we submit, that a popular tumult on a grand scale, another on a smaller scale, with robberies, and hard blows *ad libitum*, a whipping, a pillorying, and a prisoner on the rack, two suicides, three deaths in single combat, two hangings, four drownings, three murders, and some half-dozen broken hearts, are rather too much for a small octavo volume of some three hundred pages.

Narrative of a Religious Journey in the East in 1850 and 1851. By the Abbé de St. Michon. Bentley.

If this were a theological work, it would be beyond our prescriptive pale of observation:—and being little better than the printed pocket-book of a railway traveller from London to St. Jean d'Acre, it does not sustain the interest which its title will awaken in many. The writer seems to be an amiable enthusiast, without perception of character, and with that *niaiserie* which results from indulging in the sentimental egotism peculiar to certain French travellers who take Chateaubriand for their model in style. The favourite idea of the Abbé de St. Michon is, the reconciliation of the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches; and it appears, that he addressed a long memorial to the present Pope on the subject. He gives us in several pages the contents of this memorial:—which we need not further notice than by saying that it is composed in a kindly spirit, but apparently without any deep knowledge of the innumerable political and theological obstacles in the way of its realization. Having drawn up his memorial, the writer tells us,—

"Monseigneur the Nuncio Fornari, who was about to be raised to the dignity of a cardinal, granted me an audience, in which he listened to the details of my plan with the kindest cordiality. He entreated me to devote the journey I had in contemplation to the service of religion, and he promised to present to the Sovereign Pontiff the memorial which I had drawn up. He dwelt much upon the interest felt by the Church of Rome as to the reunion of dissenting communions. He told me that there was no work more deserving of the protection and paternal support of the Pope than that to which I was about to devote my efforts."

As we read on through the pages of the memorial, we felt curious to know how Pius the Ninth would receive the proposition. The simplicity of the author is apparent in the following paragraph.—

"I am ignorant whether my humble address and my prayer of a child of the church ever reached Pius the Ninth. Perhaps in the midst of the incessant agitations of these times, the memorial of an obscure pilgrim has remained in the portfolio of a secretary occupied with other matters, who judged it better not to fatigue with my supplication the supreme Pontiff of the church."

The following passage reflects the sentiment of many a sojourner in Vienna,—and is interesting at the present time.—

"Vienna resembles Berlin in nothing. There are in reality two political centres of Germany, without speaking yet of Frankfurt and of the cities of the Rhine. One single idea is dominant in the Prussian city. The recent creation of the empire of which it is the capital, is reflected in everything. One sees a people which has become great, and which will become still greater. Its instinct of preponderance betrays itself at each moment. This city, where upon nine passengers out of ten you see a helmet and a sword, these fortified places maintained as in time of war, these civil and military constructions in which the architect has pleased himself with restoring throughout gates in ogce, machicolations, the battlements of feudal times,—indicate without mistake, the sentiments of material strength which aspires to conquest and aggrandizement. At Vienna there is nothing of all this. There is here none of the unity in a people conscious of a future. It is a government which would not willingly fall; nothing more. Vienna alone is the strange symbol of Austrian monarchy, formed of so many parts. The old city is in the centre, surrounded on all sides with immense and heavy fortifications. The modern town extends in breadth beyond the glacis of the imperial city. In both one and the other you are sensible of the grandeur, and of the capital of an empire. But these high walls, with their continuous battlements paced by sentinels; these multiplied posts occupied by guards, their sombre posters beneath which you

pass with bent head, all inspire you with a feeling of awe. One is inclined to ask oneself whether Vienna is in a state of siege; or rather whether the city of the Emperor is in fear of the immense town which surrounds it on all sides. Vienna is the only city of the civilized world which presents this aspect. A foreigner cannot understand it, but he suffers from it. He feels an involuntary preoccupation and oppression in the midst of the crowd passing and repassing in silence around him. In the twinkling of an eye, the cry, to arms! might resound, the heavy gates of this warlike city close, the chains of iron extend, the wooden bridges break up upon the rivers, and the cannon make itself heard in loud and terrible reverberations. The Austrian monarchy is on the watch. The terrible revolution through which it has lately passed, and over which it has only triumphed by unheard-of good fortune, is the fatal indication of a disorganization which it is impossible not to foresee, and of which the end, more or less distant, alarms it:—one, it may be said, that is the least stable empire of Europe,—a power therefore, upon the ocean of revolution, which resembles a boat painfully endeavouring to avoid a rock."

There is little that general readers would care to make acquaintance with in this slight volume. Its author treats of too great a variety of topics, and discusses them all in too cursory a manner, to be either instructive or entertaining. His journal was scarcely worthy of elaborate publication.

Sussex Archaeological Collections, relating to the History and Antiquities of the County. Vol. VI. Published by the Sussex Archaeological Society.

ALTHOUGH this volume is perhaps scarcely as good as the last, it proves that the Sussex Archaeological Society is pursuing its course, and accomplishing the objects for which it was instituted, with zeal, knowledge, and intelligence. It contains seventeen papers,—contributed by nine of the members; three being by Mr. M. A. Lower, as many by Mr. Blaauw, the able Secretary, two by the Rev. G. M. Cooper, two by Mr. G. R. Corner, two by the Rev. F. Spurrell, and the remainder by as many separate authors. Mr. M. A. Lower seems to be a very versatile, as well as valuable, assistant in such an undertaking; for not a few of the illustrations, and those among the best, are avowedly from his pencil.

The two earliest papers have some relation to each other. The first, by the Rev. Mr. Hunter, is a rather dry antiquarian dissertation on what has been called, and probably mis-called, "The Roll of Battle Abbey," which was once supposed to contain the names of those who came over with William the Norman:—the second, from the fluent pen of Mr. M. A. Lower, professes to be a historical and descriptive account of the Battle of Hastings on the 14th of October, 1066. It is mainly derived from the well-known and recently-translated 'Roman de Rou,' of Wace, with additions from the 'Carmen de Bello Hastingsensi,' ascribed to Bishop Guy of Amiens,—and is very pleasant reading; but here and there the author allows his pen to run away with him, and although he checks its speed by turning it against the difficult ascent of some antiquarian eminence, it is not always stopped until it has involved him in contradiction. Thus, at page 26, he quotes Wace regarding the feigned retreat by William, when the English followed their enemies and "drove the Normans before them, till they made them fall back upon a fosse, overthrowing into it horses and men;" yet on the next page, in reference to the very same fosse, Mr. Lower speaks of "the Normans in pursuit of the English" as being suffocated in it. The fact was, as indeed Mr. Lower just afterwards shows from Malmesbury, that the English "drove

down the Normans" into this fosse, and there destroyed them. May we also hint, that the word "latitome," which Mr. Lower imagines to mean "the defiant phrase, *let them come on*," is probably a corruption of *let it come*? The Saxons are described as carousing the night before the battle, passing the bowl from one to the other, and exclaiming *wassail, drinkheil, &c.*; and nothing could be more natural than for them, in their eagerness to obtain possession of the vessel, to say *let it come*,—or, as Wace, a foreigner, writes it, *latitome*. At such a moment they did not think of their enemies; and it is Mr. Lower's complaint, that while William's forces were praying and arming, those of Harold were drinking and gaming.

Mr. Blaauw's communication on the Visit of Edward the Second to Sussex in 1324 comprises a few particulars worth knowing for the purposes of general history, and many that are interesting on local considerations. These have been obtained from various manuscript and printed sources; and we cannot too much praise the exactness with which the writer inserts his references. We apprehend that *aquarum daleium*, at page 51, must be a misreading or a misprint for *aquarum dulcium*,—and that the "she-wolf of France" was not Queen Isabella, the mother of Edward the Third, but Queen Margaret, the wife of Henry the Sixth. Even if this be right, there must be a mistake in the next article, by the Rev. E. Turner, where he speaks of a portrait of Sir Anthony Browne by Isaac Oliver. Browne died in 1548,—and Isaac Oliver was not born till 1556.

We quote the following remarks on the antiquity of heraldry, from Mr. Ellis's essay "On the Origin of the Arms of some Sussex Families."

"If these Collections had not been restricted to topics of a local rather than a general nature, arguments might be brought forward to refute the prevailing opinions as to the antiquity of heraldry: it might be shown that charters, with arms on seals attached, prove its existence in the eleventh century in Spain and France; that armorial bearings are spoken of by historians of the time of Charlemagne, and subsequently; and that even Tacitus speaks of the parti-coloured shields of the Germans. The coats of some of the most ancient and noble European families answer precisely to that description (as chequy, lozengy, &c.), and are probable the ancient ensigns of the Teutonic chieftains. The Anglo-Saxon kings and nobles, as their descendants, bore arms on their banners and shields, some of which have probably come down to us, although the majority of them became extinct, along with the families who bore them, or with their subjection. The omission of allusion to arms in what remains of Anglo-Saxon literature is not more remarkable than a similar silence in the general literature and newspapers of the present day. The Bayeux tapestry exhibits obvious though rude representations of these devices, and although, for some political reasons, William the Conqueror discountenanced their display, yet they were borne notwithstanding by his barons and knights, as is proved by many families a hundred and fifty years afterwards, descended of a common ancestor living at the Conquest, using the same bearings. Unless this deduction be allowed, the absurdity follows of supposing that distant relatives, in remote counties, and even countries, holding under distinct feudal chiefs, would, in hundreds of cases, have strangely adopted the same devices; or the equal absurdity of their wholesale fabrication, by a collusion of heralds of different ages and lands. If heraldry had originated in the twelfth century, the devices selected would, reasoning *à priori*, have been different from what they were. Modern family heraldry is not a new and distinctive science from the ancient, but a continuation of it, and the ordinaries are not 'refinements' of modern growth, but ancient independent charges; and, indeed, no charge or 'difference' (excepting canting arms) was arbitrarily assumed, but adopted from the maternal or uxorial

coat; because family relationship alone, and not the feudal connexion (which was a coincidence, not a cause), was the source of each new coat. Arms seem to have been always hereditary, from the earliest times, except in certain cases, and canting arms were taken by *novi homines* only, and necessarily, in default of paternal arms. Probably the greater part of significant ensigns were originally of this kind."

A question has been long mooted among antiquaries as to the site of Anderida and Andredesecester, — all traces of which have for centuries been lost. The Rev. A. Hussey, in an elaborate paper, contends that Pevensey and Anderida were the same. We have not space to enter into his arguments; but we may observe, that they are not always very logical or conclusive. At page 101 he says,—

"Secondly, we are to answer the objection that Pevensey does not fulfil the condition of 'desolation,' ascribed to the site of Andredesecester. And here it is necessary to repeat, what seems to be generally forgotten, what perhaps is quite unknown to many, that by the two names, Anderida and Pevensey, we do not designate one and the same spot. To arrive at positive certainty with regard to events and circumstances of remote ages, whereof no records survive, is impossible; but if the Caer Pensavel Coit of the Britons be the place now called Pevensey, it is a presumption, if not quite a deduction, that the appellations, Pensavel and Anderida, were in contemporaneous use."

—Without being hypercritical, we may remark that, at all events, the many who never knew a fact could not well have forgotten it,—and that it is a mere truism to tell us that we can arrive at no certainty as to remote events regarding which all record has been lost; while, to show that the appellations Pensavel and Anderida were "in contemporaneous use" establishes nothing, unless it can also be proved that they were employed by our ancestors to designate the same place.

The most important article in the volume, in our opinion, is that which includes Mr. Blaauw's collections regarding the great Earls of Warren; but it is so made up of disjointed materials, that we find it difficult to present our readers with a quotable extract. Neither is it always easy to distinguish in it what is new from what is old,—what the author has obtained from original sources, and what he has derived from such authorities as Watson's 'History of the Earls of Warren and Surrey.' We do not for a moment mean to hint that Mr. Blaauw has been disingenuous in this respect; on the contrary, he has, we think, scarcely done himself justice,—probably from an unwillingness to take too much credit for new materials. It strikes us, that the particulars derived from the Wardrobe Accounts of Edward the First are here printed for the first time; and they are interesting,—as the following short quotation will establish.—

"To John Symphonista, the elder and the younger, dwelling at Canterbury, and to 12 other minstrels, for performing their minstrelsy in the cathedral church before the king several times while he was there, xls. To Master Elias, the harper (citharista) at Lincoln, xxs. To the lady Ada, wife of Saracen, the minstrel, by the king's gift, because she played on the psaltery (salteria) before the king, 20s. —EB. 2668, 27^o Ed. I. 'To Thomasina Vithal, and Janett, trumpeters (*trompar*) of the prince, performing their minstrelsy in presence of the Lords Thomas and Edmund, sons of the king, by their gift, to each of them 5s. To Richard and John, being boys and trumpeters with the Countess of Hereford, in presence of the same two princes, iiii. —W.N. 1955, 33^o Ed. I. 'In 1306, "To little William, the organist of the Countess of Hereford, 5s." Other payments to the harper—le Taborer—le croudere—tromptours—"Guillaume sans maniere." To Gillot, fidler (*vidulator*) of the Earl of Arundel, half a mark. To Geoffrey, the harper of the Earl de Warene, 11s. —to Matilda Makejoye, xliid."—*Roll of Exec. Q. Elean.*, p. 144."

The communication best illustrated in this volume is, the Rev. G. M. Cooper's account of Michelham Priory,—but it is chiefly of local importance; while Mr. G. R. Corner's treatise on the history of Borough English may be said to belong more or less to the whole kingdom, since there are few districts where the custom of allowing the youngest son to inherit the landed property of a family does not in some degree prevail. When the author was beating about for the reasons out of which this legal peculiarity arose, we rather wonder it did not occur to him that it probably originated in the fact that in early and warlike times all the older sons would have been sent out into the world and provided for by their parents before the youngest came of age. For him therefore the land, in very remote periods of comparative little value, might be reserved.

The possession of an old volume, with the name of George Boorde on the title-page, is made by Mr. M. A. Lower the peg on which to hang a new life of Dr. Andrew Borde, although it is not proved that the two persons were in any way related. The author has not succeeded in adding anything important to the memoir by Anthony Wood, with Hearne's Supplement; but as a piece of biography the paper reads agreeably. Borde was a pleasant, versatile, and unprincipled fellow; but Mr. Lower repeats a popular mistake, when he says that the term "merry Andrew" originated with him. We may also state that there are several black-letter copies of Borde's 'Tales of the Men of Gotham' long anterior to "the commencement of the present century," although Mr. Halliwell may not be acquainted with them. Moreover, Anthony Wood does not style Borde "a noble poet,"—as Mr. Lower, with some contempt for Wood's opinion, alleges; but "a noted poet,"—which he indisputably was. However, these matters are trifles, and detract little from the general excellence of the composition. It seems not to have sufficiently struck Mr. Lower, that the Andrew Borde who was the manumitted "native [?] or villain" of the Earl of Abergavenny in 1511 may have been his hero, who died in the Fleet Prison in 1549.

We may be allowed to take this opportunity of submitting to the writers of several of these papers that it is not necessary on so many occasions to thank and belaud each other, or the members of the Sussex Society generally. We are sure that all gentlemen who possess information or documents will be glad to communicate them without the imposition of such a tax, especially if any of them belong to associations formed for the purpose of accumulating and publishing historical or archeological information. In one instance before us, which it is not necessary to specify, the tribute may be, and no doubt is, well deserved,—but in its terms it reads more like "a puff direct" than a just appreciation of real merit.

Adventures in Australia in 1852 and 1853. By the Rev. H. B. Jones. Bentley.

THE Rev. Mr. Berkeley Jones aims rather at usefulness than at brilliancy. He looks at facts as they are, and reports them with a sort of photographic truth. His outlines are good,—his details accurate we have no doubt; but the scene, as he presents it, is wanting in light and play, colour and motion. The artist, the man of fancy, will learn nothing from Mr. Jones's adventures. Indeed, it is an abuse of terms to call such common-place experiences of men and things, "adventures." The emigrant, however, will find in this record of personal observation hints for his guidance of no small value.

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view of the chances of the gold-seeker in Australia. Under the circumstances of the day,—in face of the eager excitement, rising *crescendo*, in our warehouses and offices—an excitement luring away from his employment many a youth of parts and prospects in the old country into an unhappy chase after sudden riches,—it is well to keep the sobering facts of actual life in the gold regions before the public. Mr. Jones tells us, in a useful passage, that—

"The erroneous and extravagant notions formed about the diggings by immigrants cannot be removed too soon, and they should be told the naked truth at once, that while many prosper, many also fail. * * There are several remarkable instances of persons succeeding who reached the mines penniless; but the best course to pursue without money, is to look for work until they have sufficient to give themselves and the gold-mines a fair chance. To be induced to attempt it without funds because some have not failed, would be just as sensible and reasonable as for young barristers to eat sprat suppers because Lord Eldon did so, and became Chancellor; or tripe and ham, because Erskine when living at Blackheath was forced also by poverty to adopt that diet, and he too arrived at the dignity of Lord High Chancellor of England; or to suppose that because Johnson and Garrick came up to London with only three half-pence, every one to arrive at great celebrity and fame should do the same—if they had the exact sum. Many have lost the savings of years at the diggings. One old man, who had been a contractor for tunnelling on some of Brasseley and Mackenzie's railway lines, took up with him 200*l.*, and five of his fellow-passengers formed the party; for five months they worked away at the Turon and buried all, owing to the holes filling with water. The privations were too great for this man; he had not been accustomed to a sheet of bark for a bed and a gunya hut, and to the unvarying tea and damper. To use his own words—'it nearly finished me.' Immediately on landing he went off without experience, and almost without inquiry. One of the gardeners of the Botanical Gardens at Sydney went up to the Turon, took his wife with him, and in three months lost all his savings, 75*l.*, and also his health; he was glad to return to his former occupation. Another acquaintance of the writer's lost 30*l.* in four months on one occasion, in Bell's Paddock, Braidwood; and 20*l.* in two months on another trial, but he means to return to it, and perhaps will eventually succeed. An officer, with his two sons, now a stipendiary magistrate, an aged man, lost 50*l.* in five months; but neither he nor his party had in them any elements of success. A young gentleman, the son of a merchant from Edmonton, came out with three friends with the sole object of going to the diggings; he went from Sydney to Mailland, and overland from thence to Bingera, about 250 miles; lost at the Bingera gold-field 40*l.*; from the scarcity of water they could not make the yield profitable; he passed on to the Hanging Rock, made 75*l.* in a fortnight, and from thence proceeded to the Turon, where, after eight months, he found he had netted 700*l.* He justly remarked, that the diggings were demoralizing from the rambling, erratic sort of life. However, he intended to try Mount Alexander after Christmas. He had been shot at and struck in the leg, by a ball, fired by a black fellow; for which he returned a heavy charge of buck-shot in the part that people usually employ to sit down upon."

Mr. Jones naturally took some interest in the educational institutions of Australia:—and we regret to learn from his narrative that the newly founded University at Sydney continues to meet with resistance from the Church party in the colony. He writes:—

"In the middle of the race-course stands the Sydney University, for which the colony, in a great measure, is indebted to Wentworth—the most useful measure he has ever propounded for their advantage. But it has raised a controversy, which was raging with considerable warmth, between the Bishop of Newcastle, the clergy, and some portion of the laity. The Principal is a first-class Oxford man, and formerly head-master of Bury St. Edmund's; a person of unquestionable literary and classical attainments.

The Professor of Mathematics was senior wrangler of his year; as also was the Professor of Chemistry, a gentleman of the highest pretension in the inductive sciences. So far, therefore, as sufficiency of talent was concerned, there could be no doubt respecting the efficiency of the institution. But the Bishop of Newcastle, in the absence of the Bishop of Sydney, thought that a portion of the five thousand pounds per annum which was voted by the Council, should be appropriated to founding professorships of theology, regulated in amount by the same principle that the Church funds are, for teachers of different creeds. The College was separated from the University; but this was not sufficient for his lordship, who is rather arbitrary in his discipline, being of a 'sic volo, sic jubeo' temperament. He assumed that the Bishop of Sydney would object to the principle of the University, as being a godless (so he said), even an heathen University, because secular knowledge was alone taught in it. Upon this ground he objected also to affiliated colleges."

—We are told that the laity of Sydney have resolved to found a college in connexion with the University for the education of young men of the Anglican Church. It is to the credit of Mr. Jones, considering his "cloth," that he expresses a favourable opinion of the secular principle as this was established in the first Australian University.

Having said so much in behalf of what is useful and charitable in this book of adventures in the colonies of Australia, candour compels us to add, that we have laid a reprehending mark, in our copy, against many a platitude—many an offence of taste and against grammar.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Wyld's Chart of the Arctic Regions, from the Admiralty Surveys. Third Edition.—This new edition has been prepared for the purpose of meeting the fresh Arctic tidings of the day,—and incorporating the track by which Capt. McClure, issuing into the Polar waters by Behring's Strait, and following the flood-tide flowing eastward, reached his present point of station at the north-west side of Baring Island, a little to the south of Banks Land,—and has solved the long-mooted question of a north-west passage (to the north of Baring Island, or up the Prince of Wales Strait)—in the inverse sense. The particulars of Capt. McClure's discovery will be found fully given elsewhere in our columns of to-day:—the steps or stations by which he arrived at his point of final discovery are clearly laid down in Mr. Wyld's map. The publication is most opportune.

London Homes: including the Murder Hole; the Drowning Dragon; the Priest and the Curate; Lady Mary Pierrepont; and Frank Vansittart. By Catharine Sinclair.—The publisher's advertisement intended to recommend this book, states that the reception given in America to 'Beatrice,' Miss C. Sinclair's last novel, "has, in fact, exceeded that of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' in England. Above one hundred thousand copies were sold in a few weeks. A pamphlet was published by twenty-eight clergymen of New York, advising that each of their congregation should possess a copy." Recollecting the opinion expressed of 'Beatrice' on its publication [*Athen.* No. 1301], we can only regret that New York possesses so large a congregation of foolish clergymen. Next comes Miss Sinclair's own preface, preparing us (as indeed the title of her new book had in parts done) for a new exposition of the case of *Palace versus Garret*, *St. James versus St. Giles*,—and assuring us that a "fervent desire for usefulness is her sole motive for writing." Thirdly, we have the book itself, which proves to be an *olla*, made up of many things old and new. Among others, there are, "a legend belonging to a remote district of country belonging to Lord Cassilis, betwixt Ayrshire and Galloway,"—an absurd scene in dialogue, with a sort of "rum-tididity" chorus, by way of quiz on the Humane Society,—and, such of Miss Sinclair's 'Common-Sense Tracts' against papistry as had already appeared:—the success of said common-sense, apparently, not having warranted the fulfilment

of the original scheme, which contemplated the publication of twelve tracts. What all this may have to do with "the condition of the London poor," or, with "the excellent Secretary to the Mendicity Society"—in other words, with the business and motives announced in Miss Sinclair's preface—we leave to the twenty-eight reverend gentlemen in New York to discover.

Mark Sutherland; or, Power and Principle. By Emma D. E. H. Southworth.—'Mark Sutherland' is one of those common-place American tales which are not worth reprinting. It in no page or paragraph tempts us to mitigate or modify the character of its authoress offered not long ago in the *Athenæum*.

Raymond de Monthault, the Lord Marcher: a Legend of the Welsh Borders. By the Rev. R. W. Morgan, P. C. Tregynon.—It is a curious truth, that, whereas Scotland and Ireland have found efficient representatives in the world of fiction, Wales has not yet its Scott or its Edgeworth, its Galt or its Banim; and that rich as the Principality is in poetry, music, historical associations, and striking points and passages of scenery, it is singularly poor in the amount of its contributions to the literature of imagination. We think of Gray's "Bard,"—of the "Betrothed" in 'The Tales of the Crusaders,'—and then find ourselves in some difficulty to mention any third "illustration" derived from native or from alien genius. At all events, this long and wordy romance, stiff with its display of learning, and containing among its paraded personages little more life than exists in a box of wooden toys, will not break the spell, by revealing to us the Welsh genius who is to do for the *Caers* and *Caders* of his district what Scott did for the *Trosachs*, and the authoress of 'Castle Rackrent' for the counties of Ireland. After such a sentence as the above, it would only be a waste of paragraphs to attempt sketching the argument of the tale, or enumerating the characters that sustain its action and its passion.

Memoir of Dr. Charles Webster; with an Account of Dr. Alexander Webster. By Grace Webster.—This book would have been made more valuable to the Webster family had a better spirit of order presided over the arrangement of its contents; but even the remote descendants of the two excellent men whom Miss Webster has undertaken to commemorate may be excused if they confound one ancestor with another, or one generation with its preceding or succeeding generation. This is the more vexatious, since we fancy that a group of pictures might have been assembled attractive to other readers besides Websters. As matters stand, owing to want of skill, entanglement in narrative, and prosiness of style, the volume can satisfy no one, whether personally or merely generally interested.

Scenes and Adventures in the Semi-Alpine Region of the Ozark Mountains of Missouri and Arkansas. By Henry Rowe Schoolcraft.—The name of Mr. Schoolcraft is identified in America with the early exploration of the western regions of the United States. The present work is a retrospective publication of the journals of a tour performed in 1818-19. "Four-and-thirty years," says Mr. Schoolcraft, "have passed away since the travels here brought to view were terminated. They comprise a period of exciting and startling events in our history, social and political. With the occupancy of Oregon, the annexation of Texas, the discoveries of California, and the acquisition of New Mexico, the very ends of the Union appear to have been turned about;—and the lone scenes and adventures of a man on a then remote frontier may be thought to have lost their interest. But they are believed to possess a more permanent character. It is the first and only attempt to identify De Soto's march (1541) west of the Mississippi; and it recalls reminiscences of scenes and observations which belong to the history of the discovery and settlement of the country."—On this side of the Atlantic, the volume will be interesting chiefly to those who relish accounts of adventures for their own sake:—in America it will possess a higher historical value.

The Jesuits. An Historical Sketch. By E. W. Grinnell, M. A.—The title of this book is a mis-

nomer. It is not an "historical sketch,"—if history rightly mean a just account of incidents and characters;—but a controversial invective, for the purposes of which historical facts are used or misused, without regard to justice. "The First Part" of the volume "has already been extensively circulated by the Religious Tract Society;" and the sequel is fit only for the same class of readers by whom that portion may have been favourably received. The "religious" advantage of circulating as "historical" works that distort or colour the facts of history, it is not our office to discuss:—it being sufficient, when they are offered for general circulation, to note the character which deprives them of secular authority. One remark, however, will not be out of place, on the sinister effect of such compositions in regard even to the special ends which they seek to attain. As a mere matter of controversial policy, it is unwise to deal with known subjects in a manner the bias of which must be apparent at the first glance to all but the ignorant or the prejudiced. On those whom such a method can delight, all industry, at the expense of truth and moderation, is expended in pure waste:—they are inflamed and positive enough already, and being satisfied beforehand, need no further confirmation. For the rest, on all whom it might be important to persuade the effect will be the reverse of the intention; while to advocates of the cause impugned, the process affords the very advantage most precious to controversialists—especially where the cause itself has points of real weakness—by lending scope for refuting errors and exaggerations patent on the surface, and so giving an easy victory, which they ascribe to the strength of their position, while in fact it is merely a triumph over a weak and hasty assailant. The declared purpose of this book, like that of Nicolini's [see *Athen.* No. 1344], is to denounce to English Protestantism the Jesuits of the present day; and also to direct public indignation and political alarm against the Society, by representations of its history, darkening all that was bad in the principles of the system or in the acts of its members, perverting or omitting altogether its redeeming features,—directly accusing it of misdeeds which were done by others, or insinuating its complicity in them,—exaggerating its past activity, and overrating its actual power,—attempting, in short, to create a politico-religious panic, by a process that does violence to the events which it professes to expound, and injustice to many of the characters introduced by it. This manner of proceeding, at once weak and mischievous, deserves no indulgence when it intrudes itself into the province of literature. This is no field for the partizan who attempts, on whatever side, to steal an unfair advantage under the mask of historical truth:—a disguise especially unbecoming in writers who assail a notorious body with devices of the very same kind as those which have justly made it an object of suspicion and repugnance.

Of the following works, recently published in Germany, we can give little more than the titles,—most of them being too strictly technical for adequate discussion here.—*Nine different Systems of Co-ordinates, examined in connexion with each other*, by Dr. Swellengrebel, of Utrecht, is a copious monograph on a recondite branch of mathematical analysis.—Dr. Steinhil, a young Berlin Professor of the "Science of Language," publishes his *Development of Writing* in a quasi-epic form,—prefaced by an eager defence, addressed to Professor Pott, of some former lucubrations on the same subject which had incurred Pott's censure, as unduly assailing W. von Humboldt's theory on the subject. The Doctor treats his subject in an abstruse manner, for the comprehension of which a previous study of the Hegelian philosophy would seem to be a necessary preparation.—*Medical Geography*, sketched by Dr. C. F. Fuchs, of Broterode, embraces a wide field of the topical statistics of disease, illustrated by a series of charts relative to the chief epidemic and endemic affections,—which are previously enumerated and classed with considerable detail according to site, climate, and modes of living. There are some additional chapters, on migrations of races, on change of climate as a

remedial measure, and on special features of surgical practice.—*The Poetic Canon*, by Prof. Neukirch, of Kiew, is nothing less than an attempt to describe the whole compass of Poetic Literature, ancient and modern, and to estimate the character and desert of all who have distinguished themselves in it. The field is obviously too wide for adequate treatment in a single volume; and the Professor's endeavour bespeaks more industry than judgment. His literary portraits are mere outlines,—repeating such superficial traits as compose the accounts of biographical dictionaries.

Among the reprints and new editions on our table, we have Dr. Lyman Beecher's *Lectures on Intemperance*, from the American edition,—a third edition of Mr. Vanderkiste's useful *Notes and Narratives of a Six Years' Mission, principally among the Dens of London*,—a reprint of Mr. Carlyle's singular and unwise article in *Fraser's Magazine* entitled an *Occasional Discourse on the Nigger Question*,—a reprint of an article from the *British and Foreign Review*, by Count Valerian Krasinski, a *piece d'occasion*, under the title of *Montenegro and the Sclavonians of Turkey*, revised and brought down to the present time,—and a copy of the "third thousand" of the Rev. William Davis's work on *Immortality: the True Dignity of Human Nature; or, Man viewed in Relation to Immortality*.—We have also at hand a copy of a second edition of *M. Louis Bonaparte at the Confessional*, an address to "true patriots" in French.—To these we will add, though it is a continuation, not a reprint, "a second series" of the *Travels of Roland*; or, *A Tour Round the World*, by Miss (or Mrs.) Anne Bowman. This work is intended as "more last words" to Jaufré's pleasant tale, so prettily translated by Miss Aiken; and like last words and continuations generally, it has little claim to rank with the original. It is, nevertheless, nicely illustrated by Mr. William Harvey.—The volume of *Imaginary Conversations of Greeks and Romans*, by W. S. Lander, appears to be reprinted from his previous publication, with modifications and additions,—though not a word is said on title-page or in preface to warn the reader against the impression of this being a new work. One or two of the "Conversations" may possibly be new; but of this we are not quite sure.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Abstract of Acts of 16 & 17 Victoria, 1853, 8vo. 4s. 6d. swd.
Adams's Old Man's Home, 13th edition, plates, 6s. 5vo. 3s. 6d.
Alfred; or, the Adventures of a French Gentleman, cr. 8vo. 2s. 6d.
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Arnold's School Classics, 'Xenophon's Anabasis,' 12mo. 6s. 6d. cl.
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Herve's (Lord A.) Genealogies of Our Lord, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.
Hilton's Pastor Visiting from House to House, 2nd edition, 2s.
Home Story-Books, 'Discontented Chickens,' 12mo. 1s. 6d.
Hood's (E. A.) Age and the Ageing, 8vo. 5s. 6d. cl.
Humphrey's American Handbook of the Daguerreotype, 4s. 6d. cl.
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Landmarks of History, 'Middle Ages,' 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Leeds Anti-Slavery Tracts, 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.
Lieber (F. L. D.) On Civil Liberty and Self-Government, 8vo. 15s.
Lieber's (J.) Handbook of Organic Analysis, 12mo. 5s. cl.
Lights and Shades of Military Life, 8vo. 6s. cl.
Miall's (E. M. P.) Bases of Belief, 2nd edition, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.
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Wythes's (Rev. J. H.) Microscope, 2nd edition, post 8vo. 6s. cl.
Zumpt's Latin Grammar, abridged by Kenrick, 4th edition, 3s. cl.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

THE return of the *Phoenix* steamer,—which, our readers will remember, was despatched with a transport to convey stores to Sir E. Belcher's searching squadron,—puts us in possession of intelligence from the Arctic regions of a most interesting and at the same time a very painful nature.

The leading feature of interest lies in the fact, that the problem of a passage for ships between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, north of the American continent—a problem which has engaged the enterprise of maritime nations, and particularly of our own, for upwards of three centuries—has been finally solved. Capt. M'Clure has succeeded in navigating his ship from Behring's Strait, in the west, to within about sixty miles of Melville Straits,—and was, according to the last accounts, waiting only for the disruption of the ice to pass through those straits and return by the eastern outlet to England.—The problem had long since been stripped of all that portion of its interest which was reflected on it from the field of commercial speculation; but its solution, after ages of such perilous adventure as that by which it has been sought, is a great scientific triumph,—and adds fresh glory to the old and famous flag of England.

In lieu of the commercial interest which once attached to this long *secatæ questio*, none better than the readers of the *Athenæum* know how melancholy an interest of another kind has attached to the late years of adventure in these ice-bound seas:—and the painful part of the intelligence now brought home has reference to that latter subject of anxiety and suspense. The secret of ages has been yielded up at last, we have too much reason to fear, on heavy terms. The proud satisfaction which Englishmen must feel at the discovery of a North-west—or rather, North-east—passage, is clouded by the sad fact, that the intrepid conquerors of this mysterious route have come on no traces of Franklin and his unfortunate companions.

When on the eve of sailing, Capt. M'Clure emphatically declared that he would find Sir John Franklin and Capt. Crozier,—or make the North-west passage. He has, geographically speaking, redeemed the latter part of this pledge:—but the fate of those gallant Commanders and their crews is hidden yet amid the dark and labyrinthine ice-paths of the Arctic seas. The scientific secret of centuries has been wrenched at last from the Spirit of the North—but the human secret which in these latter days the heart of more nations than our own has so yearned to solve, he guards yet, in spite of all questioning, in some one of his drear and inaccessible caves.

It will be remembered by those who have followed the history of the Arctic Expeditions in our columns, that Capt. M'Clure was first lieutenant of Sir James Ross's ship *Enterprise*,—and having been promoted, volunteered for the second Expedition by way of Behring's Strait. He was appointed to the command of the *Investigator*, under Capt. Collinson, of the *Enterprise*; and proceeded with that officer to Behring's Strait in the early part of 1850. Capt. Collinson having failed to penetrate the pack ice, parted from Capt. M'Clure, and sailed to Hong Kong,—where he wintered; but the latter, notwithstanding a signal of recall from Capt. Kellett of the *Herald*, who was the chief officer on that station, dashed onwards with a bold determination to force a passage to the north-east,—taking on himself all the responsibility of disobeying orders. Fortunately, his daring has been crowned with success; and it is not a little singular that Capt. Kellett, who was the last person seen by Capt. M'Clure when he entered the ice on the west,—should have been the person to rescue him at the expiration of three years on the side of Melville Island on the east.

We learn from Capt. M'Clure's despatches—which are very voluminous—that on the 5th of August (1850) he rounded Point Barrow, the north-eastern extremity of Behring's Strait,—and then bore to the east, keeping near the shore. On the 9th, he passed the mouth of the Colville; and on the 11th, a notice was deposited upon Jones's Island, which was found thickly strewn with

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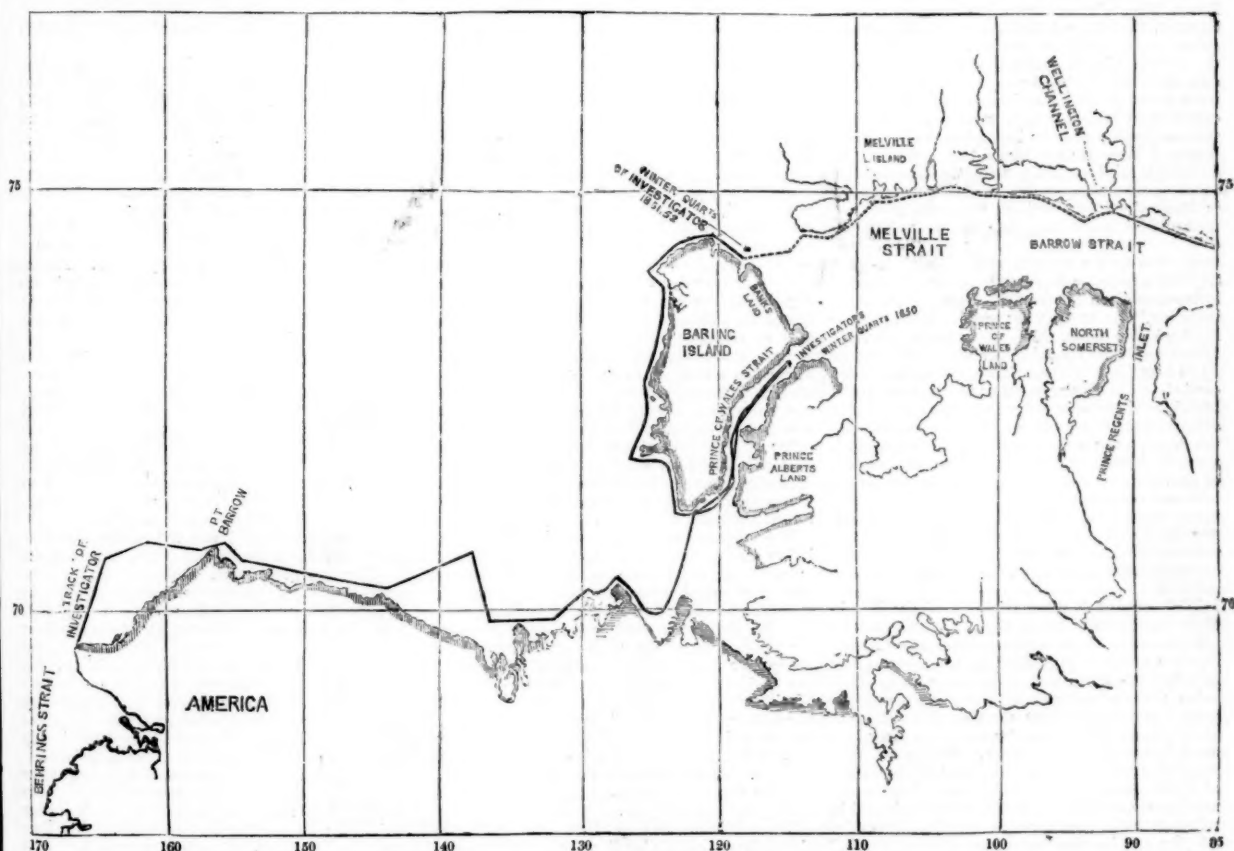
drift wood. Here communication was held with the natives,—one of whom had a gun with the name of Barnet and the date 1840 on the lock; and tobacco was bartered for salmon and ducks. The thievish propensity of these natives alluded to by other explorers is amply confirmed by Capt. M'Clure.—Struggling on through narrow leads of water, the Pelly Islands, at the mouth of the Mackenzie, were reached on the 21st of August,—and Point Warren, near Cape Bathurst, on the 24th. Here a circumstance occurred which we should be glad to know admitted of satisfactory explanation.

It appears, that on attempting to land at the above point, two natives waved the adventurers off with threatening gestures. It was with much difficulty that they were pacified; and then, they related, that all their tribe but the chief and his sick son had fled on seeing the ship,—alleging as a reason that they feared the Investigator had come to revenge the death of a white man whom they had murdered some time ago. They proceeded to relate (through the medium of the interpreter on board the Investigator), that some white men had come thither in a boat, and that they built themselves a house and lived there. At last the natives murdered one; and the others escaped—they knew not where. The murdered man was, they said, buried in a spot which they pointed out. Capt. M'Clure adds, that he was prevented from examining this grave in consequence of a thick fog which obliged him to return to his ship. It is matter of most serious regret that the truth of this

story was not inquired into. The history of the Adam Beck fabrication of the murder of white men by Esquimaux, and the well-known habit of these latter to exaggerate and deceive, render it expedient, no doubt, to receive all accounts from them with much doubt:—but here, the means of verification were apparently at hand. *Prima facie*, it is hardly likely that natives would volunteer a statement to the officer so self-criminatory as the above, unless it rested on grounds of truth.—And here we may mention, that a Correspondent has drawn our attention to an extract of a letter seemingly bearing on the above story, which we published in our columns in 1848 [No. 1094, p. 1029], and which excited considerable interest at the time. The letter in question was received by the Admiralty from Chief Factor Macpherson. It is dated March 1, 1848, and contains this passage:—"There is a report from Peel's River that the Esquimaux saw two large boats (*query ships*!) to the east of the Mackenzie River full of white men; and they, the Esquimaux, showed knives, files, &c. to the Peel's River Indians, which they had received from these white men. Could these have been Franklin or Rae?"—To the latter query, we may at once answer, that it could not have been Rae; and on the other hand, the locality referred to by the Esquimaux is precisely that in which a boat party endeavouring to return by the Mackenzie would have encamped. It agrees, too, exactly with the Esquimaux story told to Capt. M'Clure;—and we must hold, that steps should have been taken by

him to investigate the matter. We trust, that the Hudson's Bay Company, who have always evinced a desire to aid the searching cause, will lend a helping hand towards completing this inquiry.

Continuing his course to the east along the coast, the water being very shallow, but admitting of safe navigation, Cape Parry was reached by Capt. M'Clure on the 6th of September. From this position high land was observed to the E.N.E. This was taken possession of, and named Baring Island. Two days after this discovery, land was observed to the N.N.E., which was named Prince Albert Land. This is continuous with Wollaston and Victoria Lands, and extends north to 73° 21' long, and 112° 48' west lat. Here, Capt. M'Clure was very near Rae's discoveries in 1851. The Investigator was now navigated through a channel, called Prince of Wales Strait, dividing Baring Island from Prince Albert Land. This strait runs to the north-east, and was a most promising course for reaching the sea south of Melville Island. In the centre of the strait a number of islands were discovered,—to which the name of the Princess Royal was given; and a depot was made on one of them of three months' provisions for sixty-six men, with a boat and ammunition. Sailing up the strait, the Expedition progressed very favourably until the 11th of September,—when the ship was beset and drifted with the ice, narrowly escaping destruction several times, until the 8th of October. On that day she became firmly fixed. The position at this time, as will be seen by the accompanying outline



chart, was not far from the northern extremity of the strait. Here she was frozen in,—and remained stationary during the winter. Parties were sent out to explore; and it was soon ascertained that the channel opened into Barrow Strait. This established the existence of a North-West Passage! Had the sea remained open a few days more, the Expedition would have made the passage,

—not only in one season, but in the short space of little more than two months and a half.

The summer of 1851 was now anxiously awaited; but meanwhile advantage was taken of the spring to explore the coasts to the north-east and south-east in the direction of Banks Land and Wollaston Land. In the course of their explorations, tribes of Esquimaux were met with who had evidently

never seen white men before. They were quiet and inoffensive. Several musk oxen were shot on Prince Albert Land,—and proved a welcome addition to the supplies of the party.

On the 14th of July (1851) the ice opened without any pressure,—and the Investigator was again fairly afloat. Great exertions were made to pass through the strait; but, after many attempts, the

progress of the Expedition was completely arrested on the 16th of August by strong north-east winds driving large masses of ice to the southward. At this date the party were in lat. $73^{\circ} 14'$ and long. $115^{\circ} 32'$. Thus baffled, Capt. M'Clure boldly resolved on running to the southward of Baring Island, and sailing up northward along its western side. This, after many delays, and after surmounting formidable obstacles, he accomplished. Eventually, he succeeded in reaching the north side of Baring Island on the 24th of September. Had open water existed to the east, the rest of the passage might have been easily performed this way; for Barrow's Strait lay before them,—the navigation of which from their position to Lancaster Sound was known to be practicable. Unhappily, however, on the night of the above day the Investigator was frozen up; and, to the date of Capt. M'Clure's last despatch (April 10, 1853) she had not been liberated. Her position is $74^{\circ} 6'$ north lat. and $117^{\circ} 54'$ west long. Capt. M'Clure describes the locality as being excellent,—well protected from the heavy ice by the projection of a reef which throws it clear of the ship 600 yards.

In April (1852), a party crossed the ice to Melville Island,—and deposited a document there giving an account of their proceedings and of the position of the Investigator. This was, happily, discovered by Capt. Kellett's officers—only a few days before Capt. M'Clure had made arrangements for deserting his frozen-up ship. Immediate steps were taken to communicate with the party in their ice-prison:—and the excitement of the meeting between Lieut. Pim, who was appointed for the service by Capt. Kellett, and the officers of the Investigator, they only will understand who can imagine the horrors of such a prison, and the long, dreary and dreadful paths by which the prisoners were about to make their desperate attempt at escape from it.—It would, we hope, be precipitate to predict that the Investigator will not be liberated from her icy bonds this year; but we have high Arctic authority for stating that, looking to the enormous quantity of ice this summer in Barrow's Strait, and in the seas south and west of Melville Island, it is not likely that the ship has yet been moved. The perils of Arctic navigation in the vicinity of the Pole receive a frightful expression in the following calm, gallant instruction given by Capt. M'Clure:—"It is my intention," he says, "if possible, to return to England this season (1852), touching at Melville Island and Port Leopold; but should we not be again heard of, in all probability we shall have been carried into the Polar pack, or to the westward of Melville Island,—in either of which events, to attempt to send succour would only be to increase the evil, as any ship that enters the Polar pack must be inevitably crushed. Therefore, a depot of provisions or a ship at Winter Harbour is the best and only certainty for the safety of the surviving crew." This, as will be seen by the date, was written last year:—and precisely the steps recommended by him have been taken for the discovery and rescue of Capt. M'Clure and his companions.

With respect to the navigation of the North-West Passage, which is a subject of great geographical interest, Capt. M'Clure observes:—"A ship stands no chance of getting to the westward by entering the Polar Sea,—the water along shore being very narrow and wind contrary, and the pack impenetrable; but through the Prince of Wales Strait, and by keeping along the American coast, I conceive it practicable. Drift-wood is in great abundance upon the east coast of the Prince of Wales Strait, and on the American shore,—also much game. The hills in this vicinity abound in rein-deer and hares, which remain the entire winter:—we have procured upwards of 4,000 lb."—From the observations which were made, it appears that the set of the currents is decidedly to the eastward.—"At one time," says Capt. M'Clure, "we found the set as much as two knots in a perfect calm,—and that the flood-tide sets from the westward we have ascertained beyond a doubt, as the opportunities afforded during our detention along the western shore gave ample proof."—This is one of the important facts of Capt. M'Clure's

enterprise,—and establishes the propriety of making any future attempt at a passage which might be required from the side of Behring's Strait.

Up to April 1852, the health of the crew of the Investigator was excellent; but during the past winter scurvy manifested itself,—and it was fatal to three individuals in the spring.

According to the last accounts from Capt. Kellett, it appears that he had sent his surgeon to report upon the health of the crew of the Investigator; and had given instructions that should there not be among them twenty men who were sufficiently well, and would volunteer to remain another winter, Capt. M'Clure was to desert his vessel. This step, indeed, seems to be contemplated; for Capt. Inglefield states, that the Intrepid steam tender was expected at Beechy Island with the crew,—and Sir E. Belcher had ordered the North Star to be prepared on her arrival to proceed to England, and to leave the Intrepid at Beechy Island in her place.

We turn now to Sir E. Belcher's despatches:—which, if not so interesting in a geographical point of view as those of Capt. M'Clure, yet contain many important features. At the head of these may be placed,—first, the existence of a polar sea, which Sir Edward feels convinced is now placed beyond a doubt;—and secondly, the discovery of what we would gladly hope may be further traces of Franklin.

When Capt. Inglefield left Beechy Island last year, he brought home the intelligence that Sir E. Belcher had gone up Wellington Channel, and had been absent three weeks. It now appears that he reached Cape Becher to the north-east, near which, in lat. $76^{\circ} 52'$ and long. $97^{\circ} W.$, a locality was found for winter quarters. Apprehensive that the open season was fast approaching to a close, preparations were made for boat and sledge explorations to the northward:—and these were commenced on the 23rd of August. On the 25th, when rounding a point where the coast suddenly turns to the eastward, the remains of several well-built Esquimaux houses were discovered. "They were," says Sir E. Belcher, "not simply circles of small stones, but two lines of well laid wall in excavated ground, filled in between by about two feet of fine gravel, well paved, and withal presenting the appearance of great care—more, indeed, than I am willing to attribute to the rude inhabitants or migratory Esquimaux. Bones of deer, wolves, seals, &c. numerous. Coal found."—There is no mention of any search having been made for a record,—though in all probability this was not neglected; yet the absence of any cairn would seem to render it unlikely that a document existed. It will be observed, that Sir E. Belcher does not hazard an opinion as to whether these huts were built by Franklin's party or not:—but if not by Esquimaux, it would be difficult to arrive at any other conclusion.

The explorations of Sir Edward and his officers led to the discovery of various lands,—to the most extensive of which the name of North Cornwall was given,—and of several islands washed by a sea open to the north, which, as we have stated, Sir E. Belcher regards as the Polar basin. Sir Edward gave the name of Victoria Archipelago to a group of islands in $78^{\circ} 10' N.$ lat.; and the easternmost, forming the channel to Jones's Strait, which communicates with the Polar Sea, he named "North Kent." It is important to add, that as early as the 20th of May he found the sea open in the latitude of Jones's Strait. His words are—"Polar sea as far as the eye could range." He also states that the tides were most apparent, setting from east to west.

Thus, it is due to Capt. Penny to record, that although many of his headlands and visual bearings are erroneous, as might be expected,—yet, the fine open water which he described as existing to the north of Wellington Channel is a reality, and his views of its connexion with the Polar basin are borne out by Sir E. Belcher's observations.

In the spring of this year, a very extensive sledge journey was made by Commander Richards and Lieut. Osborne. They started from their winter quarters in Wellington Channel,—and, bearing to

the north-west in the first instance, afterwards struck south, and, crossing Melville Island, reached the winter quarters of the Resolute at Denby Island. Here they communicated with Capt. Kellett:—from whom they heard the pleasing intelligence of the safety of the Investigator. By this exploration, which was extended over a period of ninety-seven days, the shores of the eastern side of the Hecla and Griper Gulf were examined:—and returning up Byam Martin Channel, its connexion with the Polar basin was ascertained.

The last despatches from Sir E. Belcher, dated "H.M.S. Assistance, on return to Beechy Island, about ten miles east of Cape Becher, July 26, 1853," inform us, that his ships were liberated from the ice on the 14th of July,—and that his future proceedings will be determined by the nature of the despatches that he may find at Beechy Island. He strongly advocates the immediate return to England of the Investigator's crew; not conceiving it desirable that any further expense or risk should be incurred in waiting for the possible disruption of the ice. The probability of Capt. Collinson having followed Capt. M'Clure's track renders it expedient that a ship should be stationed at Melville Island,—and Capt. Kellett will in all probability be ordered to remain there.

Sir E. Belcher lays so much stress on the existence of an open Polar sea, that we are surprised that he does not state his intention of boldly entering it with his well-appointed ship and steam-tender. Such a course would be warranted by his instructions, and at the same time be in harmony with his well-established spirit of enterprise.

It now only remains to notice Capt. Inglefield's despatches.

Having to tow the Breadalbane transport ship, his passage across Melville Bay was a difficult and tedious operation. Seldom during any part of the open season has so much ice been seen as was observed during this year. When in the middle of the bay, scarcely any water was visible from the mast-head,—and the Phoenix had already sustained so much damage from the pressure of the ice, as to render it necessary to shift the screw. On the 8th of August the Expedition arrived at Beechy Island; but so late was the season, that no water was seen from Cape Riley the day before. The ice was too abundant and hummocky to admit the possibility of landing the stores on Beechy Island;—and accordingly Cape Riley was selected for that purpose.

It became now an object of great importance to communicate with Sir E. Belcher,—and Capt. Inglefield resolved on being himself the bearer of Sir Edward's despatches. With this view, he started in his whale boat, with a month's provisions, on the 10th of August,—leaving orders, in case of any unforeseen casualty preventing his return to the Phoenix by the time the transport was cleared, to run no risk of the ships being caught for the winter, but to proceed to England without him.

Wellington Channel was full of ice,—and so rough with large cracks and pools, that it defied sledging excepting with a strong party. An attempt was made to carry a small punt over the ice; but this proving ineffectual, Capt. Inglefield determined on proceeding by land with an officer and two men to Cape Rescue. Each man carried a blanket, a bag, and a fortnight's provisions. The Cape was reached, with much exertion, on the 13th of August; but further progress was arrested by open water. At this juncture, a notice was found stating that Capt. Pullen had returned to his ship after having communicated with Sir E. Belcher.

Having deposited duplicates of their despatches in the cairn, the party commenced their return to Beechy Island:—which was reached five days after their departure,—they having during this time travelled 120 miles. It was in a second attempt to convey the original despatches to Sir E. Belcher that one of the saddest episodes recorded in these last Arctic papers occurred. The gallant Lieut. Bellot—who, it will be remembered, accompanied Capt. Inglefield in the Phoenix—here lost his life. He had been sent by Capt. Pullen on the above duty,—having volunteered his services. A heavy gale having suddenly sprung up, he and two of his men were driven from the shore on a floe; and

while reconnoitering from the top of a hummock of this floe in search of the means of escape for himself and his party, he was precipitated by a violent gust of wind into a deep crack in the ice, and there perished by drowning. Quite aware of his imminent danger, we are informed that in the face of death he expressed his satisfaction that he was engaged in the performance of an important duty. His two companions were saved; and after driving about on the floe for thirty hours without food, they were enabled to regain their ship, bringing back the despatches in safety.—Lieut. Bellot had won the friendship and esteem of all the officers on board the *Phoenix*. His loss will be deeply lamented here,—as doubtless it will in the native service to which he was an honour. He had made a great number of magnetic and other scientific observations, which will be placed in the hands of Col. Sabine for publication. He was at all times foremost in the offer of his services for any difficult or dangerous undertaking. Indeed, he sacrificed his life to a sense of duty. We are glad to learn, that there is a design of erecting some testimonial commemorative of the loss of this excellent and able young officer. Such a step will, we feel sure, be duly appreciated by the French Government,—particularly if it should receive the countenance and support of our Admiralty. A meeting of the Royal Geographical Society will shortly be convened to take into consideration the best means of testifying the sympathy of the British public.

Shortly after Capt. Ingfield's return to his ship, he had the misfortune to witness the total destruction of the *Breadalbane* transport. This event happened in the middle of the night of the 21st of August. The ice had been in motion for some days,—causing the greatest uneasiness respecting the safety of the vessels. At length a nip, which the *Phoenix* resisted, proved too powerful for the less strongly constructed *Breadalbane*; and in less than fifteen minutes after she was struck she disappeared in thirty fathoms of water,—giving the people on board barely time to save themselves. Fortunately, nearly all the Government stores had been landed.—Another episode this, illustrating the terrible accidents of those seas which keep the dark secret of Sir John Franklin and his crews!—The catastrophe shows, how important it is that ships should be efficiently strengthened for Arctic navigation. The voyage of the Investigator from Behring's Strait to her present position near Melville Island, is a proof how successfully a ship may be made to battle with thick-ribbed ice.

Capt. Ingfield now resolved, in obedience to his instructions, on returning to England. With the crew of the lost *Breadalbane* in addition to his own, he left Beechy Island on the 24th of August; and after encountering many difficulties, he passed through Lancaster Sound and into Baffin's Bay,—rounding Cape Farewell on the 21st of September, and arriving off Thurso on the 4th of October.

It is worthy of mention, that at Lively, on the coast of Greenland, information was obtained of the existence of a coal mine twenty-six miles from the harbour, where coal may be obtained in large quantities. Capt. Ingfield states, that the Danes prefer it for burning in stoves to English coal.

Such are the principal and most interesting features of the despatches brought home by Capt. Ingfield:—and under the head of geographical discovery, their importance cannot be over-estimated.

It is of course quite possible that intelligence may yet arrive, from Sir E. Belcher or Capt. Kellett, announcing either the discovery of our long-lost countrymen, or that of further tracks of their route and their possible whereabouts. We have yet to learn the result of the explorations of Capt. Kellett's officers; and we must not forget, that Capt. Collinson, who entered the ice at Behring's Strait in 1851, may by keeping a high north latitude strike their track. At the same time, although we have always leaned to the side of hope, bearing in mind the amazing quantity of animal life existing for the subsistence of the lost party in the Arctic regions, we cannot lose sight of the facts that the head waters of Wellington Channel have been partly explored without finding any vestige of Franklin or of his ships,—and that the explorations of Capt. McClure to the south-west of Melville Island prove beyond

a doubt that they cannot be entangled in the ice in that locality. Our heart begins to faint, we must avow, beneath the burthen of hope deferred.

—Vast, however, as is the area which has now been swept by our searching ships, a much larger field yet remains unexamined.—We cannot expect, after all that has been done, with the now faint chance of saving life if discovered,—that the Admiralty will continue the search until the ground shall be exhausted;—but we would fain have the promising route by Nova Zembla tried, and the Siberian coast explored.—Then, if the result of Sir E. Belcher's deliberation at Beechy Island shall be, his return to England, and consequent abandonment of the search for Franklin in the waters to the north of Wellington Channel, shall we be satisfied with the very imperfect search in that direction which still holds out the greatest promise? Surely, when we are told of an open sea in May, and of a Polar basin free from ice, its navigation cannot be either difficult or tedious. Capt. McClure has shown us that one north-west passage exists; but we are much mistaken if other and more open passages far to the north across the pole itself will not be found.

We may take this opportunity to state, that one of the bottles picked up near the mouth of the Obi, on the Siberian coast, has lately arrived at the Admiralty. In a former number we stated, that several of these bottles had been found in the above locality; and that the Admiralty had requested the Russian Government to forward one to England. It was, of course, hoped that it might prove to have belonged to Franklin's ships; but, having personally examined it,—we are sorry to say, that it is evidently of foreign manufacture, and not at all likely to have been furnished to Franklin's Expedition. It is about the length of a soda water bottle—but more spherical; and is formed of very dark glass, nearly a quarter of an inch thick.

We are glad to hear, that Commanders McClure and Ingfield have been promoted.—To the latter we are indebted for a very clear chart showing Capt. McClure's track and discoveries;—from which the reduced map which accompanies this article has been copied.

MM. ARAGO AND AUGUSTE ST.-HILAIRE.

LAST week we announced in few words, that Dominique-François-Jean Arago is numbered with the illustrious dead. For nearly half a century he has maintained an extraordinary position in the world of science. Owing to his rare qualifications, the universality of his genius, and his remarkable industry, he placed himself in the relation of centre to a system,—and became the guiding and directing power to an extensive class of European philosophers.

It becomes our duty when such a man has passed away from the scene of his long labours, to give a record of the work which he accomplished. It is of our office to give "honour due" to all such manifestations of intelligence; and while endeavouring to show the extent to which the mental prowess of M. Arago was effective in gaining for mankind new truths from Nature,—we have also to examine the degree in which such a mind as his was influential, by suggestion and by example, in elevating the spirit of his age.

M. Arago was born in the village of Estagel, near Perpignan, in the Pyrenees, on the 26th of February, 1786,—and he died at the Observatory in Paris, on Sunday, the 2nd of October:—consequently, he was in the sixty-eighth year of his age. Gifted by nature with powers of a higher order than those which are ordinarily bestowed on man, he possessed, or acquired, habits of industry which enabled him to develop them in all their fullness. Like the majority of really great men, he was the architect of his own fortune. He owed little to fortuitous circumstances;—and, indeed, achieved much when serious obstacles stood in his path. Suffering no difficulty to bear him back—he rose always superior to misfortune,—and with great honesty of purpose and indomitable independence he laboured towards the end which he had in view. From his boyhood this appears to have been his character. When a youth in the

College of Perpignan, his ambition was excited by the appearance of, and the respect paid to, an engineer *en chef*. He learned that this honour might be obtained by means of the Polytechnic School,—and that a searching examination in mathematics must be gone through to insure his admission to that institution. François Arago, then, seriously commenced mathematical studies,—and in 1804 he entered the school in question with the highest honours.

In 1806, when only twenty years of age, so much had he distinguished himself, that he was appointed a Secretary of the Board of Longitude; and almost immediately afterwards, his acquirements having attracted the attention of Monge, he was recommended as the fitting assistant to Biot for undertaking the measurement of an arc of the meridian in Spain. This scientific labour was considerably advanced in 1807,—when Biot returned to Paris, leaving Arago in charge of the important work. The war commencing at this time between France and Spain put an end to this scientific mission; and the young mathematician had to make his escape from an enraged and ignorant peasantry in disguise. He escaped death only to become a prisoner; and when eventually liberated by the Spaniards, he fell into the hands of an Algerine corsair, and was released from captivity by the Dey only in 1809. At the age of twenty-three, Arago returned to Paris; and as a reward for his zeal, he was elected a Member of the Institute of France—in the Astronomical Section,—on the death of the great astronomer Lalande. Within a very short period, he was also appointed Professor of Analysis, Geodesy, and Social Arithmetic to the Polytechnic School:—thus, at so early an age achieving a scientific position of the highest order, and fairly entering on that remarkable career which, after many a subsequent triumph, has just terminated.

During this period, we find that M. Arago contributed sixty distinct Memoirs on various branches of science. With a view of showing the variety of subjects which claimed his attention—and to all which he gave the most searching investigation—we add the titles of a few of these contributions which appear of the most importance, selected from the *Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes*, the *Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences*, and the *Annales de Physique et de Chimie*.

Arago's first work was read before the Institute on the 24th of March 1806. It was an investigation, in which he was assisted by Biot, 'On the Affinities of Bodies for Light, and particularly on the Refracting Powers of different Gases.' With M. Petit, Arago investigated 'The Refractive Powers of certain Liquids, and of the Vapours formed from them.' With Fresnel, he examined 'The Action which the Rays of Polarized Light exercise upon each other:—and on those subjects much valuable matter will be found in his Memoirs.—Omitting from our list those Astronomical notices which regularly appeared in the *Annuaire*,—and which, though forming a part of his official duty, manifest, nevertheless, the zeal of the Secretary and subsequent Director of the *Bureau des Longitudes*,—we would refer to M. Arago's memoirs 'On the Comets of Short Period,'—'On the Pendulums of MM. Breguet,'—'On Chronometers,'—'On the Double Stars,'—and on the vexed question 'Does the Moon exercise any appreciable Influence on our Atmosphere?' Passing from astronomical subjects, we find several memoirs:—'On Nocturnal Radiation,'—'The Theory of the Formation of Dew:—and on allied subjects,—as 'The Utility of the Mats with which Gardeners cover their Plants by Night,'—'On the Artificial Formation of Ice,'—and 'On the Fogs which form after the setting of the Sun, when the Evening is calm and serene, on the Borders of Lakes and Rivers.' Indeed, the whole of the phenomena to which Dr. Wells had directed attention in his excellent work 'On Dew' was thoroughly investigated by M. Arago.

When we add, the memoirs on 'The Ancient Relation of the Different Chains of Mountains in Europe,' 'The Absolute Height of the most Remarkable Ridges of the Cordilleras of the Andes,'

'Historical Notices of the Steam Engine,' 'On Explosions of Steam Boilers,' 'Historical Notices of the Voltaic Pile,'—those which are connected with the Polarization of Light, the phenomena of Magnetic Rotation,—and on the Egyptian Hieroglyphics, we think we indicate labours of a most varied and important character.

The French nation may be justly proud of such a man as Arago; but in their eagerness to do honour to his name they have claimed for their philosopher discoveries to which his title may be disputed. Amongst these, we may name the electro-magnet; which common consent has allowed to be the invention of poor Sturgeon:—and again, although Arago extended the inquiry into the remarkable phenomena of magnetic rotation, the preliminary researches of Sir W. Snow Harris should not be forgotten. The weakness here indicated is one common to our French neighbours, and from which the distinguished man of whom we write was himself far from free. On several occasions, M. Arago endeavoured to claim for his countrymen discoveries which had long previously been made in England and elsewhere. On one of these, when discussing the merits of the discovery of a Frenchman, he was reminded that an Englishman had already, through M. Biot, made his invention known in France by a communication to the Academy of Sciences:—he declined, however, to withdraw the claim on the expressed ground that it was for the honour of France that he should maintain it. The same feeling was shown in M. Arago's 'Historical Eloge of James Watt,'—in which he claimed for Papin a position certainly due to Savery, Newcomen, and Watt. With his usual force of language, he prefaced his *éloge* by the following words:—

"I approach this inquiry with the firm determination of being impartial—with the most earnest solicitude to bestow on every improver the credit which is his due—and with the fullest conviction that I am a stranger to every consideration unworthy of the commission that you have conferred on me, or beneath the dignity of science, originating in national prejudices. I declare, on the other hand, that I esteem very lightly the innumerable decisions which have already emanated from such prejudiced sources; and that I care, if possible, still less, for the bitter criticisms which undoubtedly await me, for the past is but the mirror of the future."

After this, we find a constant effort to increase the value of each invention of Papin, and to lower the several improvements of Savery, Newcomen, and Watt. We have no desire to depreciate the labours of Papin. His inventions were important steps in the progress of the steam-engine; but it must not be forgotten that Papin abandoned his own engine as useless. Papin saw the power of steam,—but he could not apply it:—Watt diligently sought out the laws regulating the formation and the condensation of steam,—and left the steam-engine perfect. M. Arago could not deny the high claims of Watt:—yet his national prejudices led him to place Papin and Watt on the same pedestal.—Having said what was fitting at the time—and in the fitting tone,—it is not over the grave of Arago that we will renew our quarrel with him for the part which he took in the discussion respecting the rival claims of Adams and Leverrier.—We allude to these subjects only because, as honest chroniclers and critics, we are bound to exhibit the unphilosophic side in the character of a great philosopher, to whatever nation he may belong.

In surveying the results of such a life as that of M. Arago, we cannot overlook his earnest desire to give to the public all the advantages of the discoveries of science with the least possible delay—and with the utmost freedom from mere technicalities. In 1816, he established, in connexion with M. Gay-Lussac, the *Annales de Physique et de Chimie*:—and, on his pressing representation, on the 13th of July 1835, the Academy commenced, in charge of its Perpetual Secretaries, *Les Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires*.

In 1830, Arago was made Director of the Observatory,—and he succeeded Fourier as a Perpetual Secretary of the Academy of Sciences. His remarkable activity of mind and unwearied industry led him without difficulty through an amount of labour which would have overwhelmed an ordinary man. There was a remarkable clearness in his

perception of those matters to which his attention was directed. He readily stripped them of any adventitious clouding or mystery by which they might be surrounded, and fearlessly and energetically expressed his convictions. As a writer, we may remark the strong evidences of the latter in his firmness of style,—and the clearness of his perceptive faculties is shown in its lucid elegance. It is not easy to render the delicate beauties of one language into another; but the sentiment expressed in the following passage from M. Arago's 'Eloge on Watt' will find its response in every earnest mind.—

"We have long been in the habit of talking of the age of Augustus, and of the age of Louis the Fourteenth. Eminent individuals amongst us have likewise held that we might with propriety speak of the age of Voltaire, of Rousseau, and of Montesquieu. I do not hesitate to declare my conviction, that, when the immense services already rendered by the steam-engine shall be added to all the marvels which it holds out to promise, a grateful population will familiarly talk of the age of Papin and of Watt."

We have, of course, little to say on the political life of M. Arago. He was a consistent philosophical Republican; and we find in his 'Lettre à MM. les Électeurs de l'Arrondissement de Perpignan' in 1831, his 'Lettre sur les Forts détachés,' and his 'Lettre sur l'Emballissement de Paris,' in 1833, evidences of a bold and liberal mind ever alive to the social interests of his fellow men. As a deputy, M. Arago delivered a great number of speeches to the Chamber. Speaking of these, M. Cormenin says—"There is something perfectly lucid in his demonstrations. His manner is so expressive that light seems to issue from his eyes, from his lips, from his very fingers. He interweaves in his discourses the most caustic appeals to ministers—appeals which defy all answer—the most piquant anecdotes, which seem to belong naturally to the subject, and which adorn without overloading it."

A mind so active as that of M. Arago could not be idle during the political convulsions of France. In 1840 he was elected a member of the Council-General of the Seine. He was named a member of the Provisional Government—and Minister of War and Marine *ad interim*. He laboured with all honesty to subdue the tempest. He displayed his courage in the sad days of July in the streets of Paris—endeavouring, but in vain, to stay the hand of the slayer:—but the result put an end to the political career of the philosopher. Another strong evidence of moral and political courage was given by M. Arago in his refusal when summoned as a public officer to take the oaths to the Government of Louis Napoleon. Rather than sacrifice his principles he resolved to quit the Observatory and, in his old age, cast himself upon the world. This resistance was made the more remarkable by its result. Before his attitude the spirit of menace retreated. Government made an exception in his favour:—and at his death he still held the public offices which he filled so well and which he so highly illustrated.

The troubles of his later days—or rather those of his country—deeply afflicted M. Arago,—and did their work in undermining his robust frame. General debility gave rise to slow disorganization of his system,—his vital powers became gradually exhausted,—and under the influence of a general dropsy his life was extinguished.

We have spoken freely of the high claims of M. Arago as a man of science,—yet, we must add that, when the world shall ask hereafter what great discovery Arago made, it will be difficult to give an answer to the question. His was one of those minds which could not bind itself to that minute analysis which led a Newton to the discovery of the laws of gravitation, or that investigation which conducted a Davy to the invention of the Safety Lamp. He stood the busiest man in a busy age—the great expositor of Nature's truths as they were developed by the labours of experimentalists. The idea given, Arago saw at once its entire bearing, and advanced himself by rapid strides to the elucidation of the fact. His suggestions were the guiding stars of science in France,—his experiments were the foundations on which new sciences were to be built. Arago never allowed his thoughts to be involved in a

theory; he accepted a theory as a means of advancing,—but was ever ready to abandon it when it was found that facts favoured a contrary view. In the History of Philosophy his name will have enduring fame, not from the discoveries which he made,—but from the aid which he gave to science in all its departments by his prompt and unflinching penetration. A member of nearly all the scientific Societies of Europe, he was the point uniting them in a common bond. In every part of the civilized world his name was regarded with reverence,—and all scientific communities felt that they had lost a friend when they heard of the death of the Astronomer of France.

We announced last week the loss which the circle of French botanists had experienced in the death of M. Auguste St.-Hilaire. He was a member of the Botanical Section of the Academy of Sciences. His first botanical publications were on the local vegetation of France. In 1812 he published a notice of seventy species of phenogamous plants discovered in the department of the Loiret. In the same year he published observations on the new Flora of Paris. In 1816 his memoir appeared on those plants which have a free central placenta. At this time he went to South America for the purposes of investigating the vegetation of this vast continent. He remained there till 1822; and during the time of his residence in America and since, he published a number of valuable memoirs and papers on the plants of South America. The most important of these were:—1. A History of the most remarkable Plants of Brazil and Paraguay. It contained figures of the plants, and was published in Paris in 1824. 2. The Plants used economically by the Brazilians; also published in 1824, with plates. 3. From 1825 to 1832 appeared in parts, illustrated with folio plates, his 'Flora Brasiliæ Meridionalis.' In this and in the foregoing works M. Saint-Hilaire was assisted by MM. A. de Jussieu and J. Cambepedes. They comprise by far the most complete account extant of the exuberant vegetation of the Brazils. M. Saint-Hilaire has also published accounts of his various travels in South America. In 1830 appeared his travels in the provinces of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Geraes. In 1833 he published an account of his travels in the Diamond districts and on the shores of Brazil. On his return from the Brazils, his herbarium contained seven thousand species of plants which he had collected during his travels in South America.—M. Saint-Hilaire died in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK.

AMONG the few animals that have hitherto resisted most attempts to bring them alive to this country, is the Great American Ant-eater (*Myrmecophaga jubata*). The difficulty of procuring for it proper food seems to have been one cause of this failure. The late Earl of Derby on two occasions received living specimens of the curious animal in question,—but each soon died. We have now to record the fact, that one of these singular creatures has at last been secured alive by the Zoological Society,—and is at present in a prosperous condition in their Gardens in the Regent's Park.

This specimen was brought from America with two others which died on their voyage. It was placed in the Gardens the week before last; and though at first it appeared exhausted and little disposed to eat, it has recovered.—Although called Ant-eater from its asserted habit of thrusting its tongue into ants'-nests and carrying it back to its mouth charged with ants,—it has displayed in England no taste for insects. It is true, that it has not been supplied with ants,—and it is questionable if our species of that insect would be adapted to its taste. Its favourite food since it has been in the Gardens is, eggs and milk. In the course of a single day last week it ate as many as twenty-one raw eggs and drank up a quart of milk. Although it has here refused insects, no one can see its long tongue without feeling sure that the organ was not framed for sucking eggs. In addition to milk, the animal has drunk water. It sleeps most

part of active with it of bland curved, other. On bei the mo of the face l much t grallate Ant-ea It seem gnit is its natu appear confir body. tail app of its b The mals, t living were, l bered a animal pecunia —which the M found c is the l face of congen to the are left Since as well turned perma fairly l success Those ocean, as fabu not fou gorged of the fancy, some c bited. The and n "dark multitu ested b round ture-r railwa their i occasi tures l many its op scene, The co ing. Bienn failed Sin most flamin rarity eleven diseas way in still su exhibiti greater tiful h Wh which specin has se noble succu to hav

part of the day; and seems on the whole an inactive creature, though somewhat additionally active at night. Whilst asleep it covers itself over with its large bushy tail, which acts as a kind of blanket. Under its tail its body lies partially curved, with its fore and hind feet locked in each other. The head is placed between the forelegs. On being disturbed it lifts up its head:—which is the most striking part of the animal, on account of the great length of the snout. The snout and face have no hairs; which gives the head very much the appearance of that of some of the larger gallinaceous birds,—as, the storks and cranes. The Ant-eater has rather long legs and a thin long body. It seems, however, to stand awkwardly,—and its gait is a kind of shuffle. All who have seen it in its native haunts speak of its slow movements and its stupidity of character; and this report the appearance of this specimen in the Gardens would confirm. Its tail is very large, and long for its body. Whilst the animal is moving about, the tail appears to occupy more space than all the rest of its body besides.

The large Ant-eater belongs to a family of animals, the Edentata, of which there are but few living representatives at the present day. They were, however, at one time numerous,—and numbered amongst them the largest and most powerful animals on the face of the earth. They are almost peculiar to South America; and the extinct forms,—which include the Megatherium, the Megalonyx, the Mylodon, and the Glyptodon—have been found on that continent only. The present animal is the largest of the family that is left on the surface of the earth; and it possesses, with all its congeners, great interest on account of its relation to the extraordinary animals whose remains only are left to us.

Since we are speaking of the Gardens,—we may as well report progress. The Aqua-vivarium has turned out, we are glad to say, a most successful experiment. The treasures of the deep have been there fairly brought to light,—and during the summer a succession of ocean wonders has been exhibited. Those who had only heard of the flowers of the ocean, have now seen them,—and no longer regard as fabulous the statements of the traveller who has not found words glowing enough to describe the gorgeous beauties which he detects at the bottom of the sea. Even naturalists themselves have, we fancy, been astonished at the strange splendour of some of the zoophytes which have been here exhibited.

The hot summer weather was a trying period,—and many of the creatures perished. But the “dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear” infinite multitudes of such animals as have so much interested the public in this beautiful collection, and all round our shores are fishermen ready for the capture:—so that, the word has but to be given, and the railway brings up with sufficient rapidity to save their lives any number wanted to make good the occasional loss. Not that the death of these creatures is by any means a constant fact. There are many now in the Vivarium which were present at its opening. Every day, however, changes the scene,—and new forms make their appearance. The collection of fish is at this time very interesting. A tank, with several species of Wrasse and Blenny, almost rival in their variety of colours the fabled fish of the Arabian Nights’ Entertainments.

Since we last mentioned the Gardens, one of the most attractive exhibitions has been a flock of flamingoes. In former times one flamingo was a rarity in a collection,—but here we had a group of eleven of these beautiful birds. Two have died of diseases of the legs, brought on probably from the way in which they have been captured:—but nine still survive. Scarcely any things in the Gardens exhibit more variety and elegance of form, and greater delicacy of colour, than this group of beautiful birds.

Whilst the crocodiles and tortoises, in both of which the Gardens are now exceedingly rich in specimens, are doing remarkably well, a murrain has seized the snakes. Day after day have the noble specimens of Pythons, and Boas, and others succumbed to a disease in the mouth, which seems to have affected nearly all the individuals. There

appears no other way of accounting for this disease than by the closeness of the houses and of the cases. These Gardens were originally started on the plan of a fixed Wombwell’s caravan. It never seems to have occurred to any one, that as there was no necessity for carrying the animals about, there was no occasion for cooping them up in such narrow dens as distinguished Mr. Wombwell’s peripatetic menagerie. Yet, the very last of the erections of the Society—the new reptile house—is open to this objection. These snakes are creatures of the open air and sunlight; and to confine them in a badly lighted and worse ventilated room, was to secure their destruction. We know that many of these creatures cannot resist cold; and that the problem to be solved in the Zoological Gardens—as in every dwelling-house in England in the winter—is, the greatest amount of fresh air which can be combined with a given amount of heat. We think the heat has engrossed too much attention. Why, lions, tigers, elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, monkeys, and great snakes, once lived wild in England. They had no Council of an antediluvian Zoological Society to supply them with heat by means of hot-air and steam-pipe apparatus,—yet they did very well. The poor monkeys, too:—we counted fifty-eight in that one little room! If they were human beings, it is very certain that the Board of Health would have a right to interfere.—We know well how cramped the Society is for space; but surely it would be better to sacrifice a few of their flower-beds in order to build new houses, rather than allow their collection to die for want of fresh air and light.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

LAST week we brought our report of the proceedings of the Meeting of the British Association at Hull to a conclusion:—and we now proceed to offer a few such remarks as suggest themselves after a calm consideration of the character of this latest scientific congress.

Every visitor to Hull who had also attended the former meetings of the Association, noticed with surprise the absence of a large number of those men who are regarded as the leading stars of the Sections to which they severally belong. It was not that a few men, in some one particular department of science, were accidentally prevented from attending. In the Physical, the Chemical, the Geological, and the Natural History Sections alike there was observable a deficiency of those who stand at the head of these respective departments of science. Various excuses were suggested in each case—and there was an unusual eagerness to enforce a belief that the absence was purely casual. It could not, however, be concealed, that some under-current of influence injurious to the Hull meeting itself had been at work,—and that it was not entirely accident which kept away from that meeting some twenty men of high scientific reputation who are usually found at the assemblages of the British Association. It is not easy to refer this remarkable desertion to any one specific cause. Three have been named to us:—and each one of these, we have too much reason to believe, operated to a certain extent. Though different in their character, they all resolve themselves into feelings of jealousy wholly unworthy of a body of philosophers. We do no more than allude to these alleged operating causes, because they are not pleasant to dwell on; and we do so much only because we perceive in them—for the first time since the birth of this important scientific confederation—the seeds of a mortal weakness which cannot be arrested too soon. If the malady spreads, the days of the Association’s usefulness may be considered as numbered,—and a heavy responsibility rests on those by whom the unwholesome grain has been scattered.

The meetings of the British Association have hitherto been characterized by the utmost harmony of feeling:—at its gatherings the discordant spirits have been tempered by the genial influences around them. One great value of the Association was, that it brought men together who would not otherwise have met,—and they were enabled to discuss in a friendly spirit

those subjects on which perhaps they held widely different views. We have known many breaches closed by the explanation which the opportunity of a meeting in the Section-room has afforded,—and several currents of inquiry have proceeded side by side which were previously conducted in opposing channels. In the absence of those whose works have stamped them as authorities in science, the element of correction is wanting; and the young experimentalist loses the benefit of the remarks of the more experienced, to whom he had hitherto looked for guidance, and by whose suggestions he was disposed to profit. In more than one instance, this year, melancholy displays of charlatanism were permitted to occupy the time of the Section, which would not have been endured had some of those whose absence we now regret been at their posts.

In looking over our reports, it cannot but be seen, that the scientific value of the proceedings at the Hull meeting was below the average. Obviously, a considerable number of the communications made were extemporized by those who were present, and unwilling to see their respective Sections without work. Many subjects of much importance, and of general interest, came under consideration,—but we cannot indicate any decided step in advance in any branch of science.

From the light in which the British Association for the Advancement of Science is viewed on the Continent, and the rapid re-publication, principally from our columns, in the French, German and American journals of communications made at its meetings,—we are surprised that it is not more frequently made the medium through which new discoveries may be given to the world. We would urge upon the younger cultivators of science the advantage of holding back for a season the subjects on which they may have been employed, and communicating them in a more complete form in one of the Sections of the Association. The Horatian maxim is as applicable to Philosophy as to Poetry:—works in each will improve by keeping.

At the Birmingham meeting a strong effort was made to enlist our young experimentalists in branches of original research,—and the number of subjects then recommended to attention was large. The attempt does not appear to have been attended with many successful results; and to this, we suppose, may be owing the exceedingly small number of recommendations made by the Committee at the Hull meeting.

We must not close our remarks without noticing the very praiseworthy manner in which the people of Hull performed their part. In the face of every discouragement—hearing day by day that this eminent philosopher would be absent, and the other would not come,—they proceeded with their work of preparation. Notwithstanding the feeling that they were subjected to some unkindly influences,—the managers of the meeting rose above it all, and produced a system of arrangements which gave general satisfaction. The entertainment which the visitors received could not fail to make a favourable and lasting impression:—and is itself a rebuke to the evil spirit that operated in any degree to the rejection of the hospitality of the town.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

“A Constant Reader” writes to us as follows, from Portsmouth.—“Some months ago I saw in the *Athenæum* that Government had determined on sending an Expedition to explore the Tadda:—and I have since then seen in the *Times* that a vessel was being built for the purpose,—and that three officers were to form the scientific part of the Expedition. Since that time, however, I have heard nothing more of this Expedition:—nor was it mentioned during the late meeting of the British Association. I sincerely trust that the plan has not miscarried:—especially now that such good accounts have arrived from Barth and Vogel. Have the officers yet been selected?—For if they have, it is full time that the public should know of them,—or if not, they ought to be selected immediately. Perhaps you could answer this question, and oblige one much interested in African

exploration."—We can only sympathise with our Correspondent,—and fear, like himself, that the matter has been treated with so much dilatoriness as to make it doubtful now if the Expedition can be despatched in 1854. The Expedition in question up the Chadda—in its upper course called the Benué—was first proposed in our own columns, in 1852 (see *Athen.* No. 1309)—and was some time since decided on by Government,—the Earl of Clarendon being, as we understand, the one of the ministers who took the most direct and especial interest in the project. In face of the delay which seems taking place, we think it may be well worth while to repeat here the argument which we employed on the former occasion.—

"The subject of ascending the Kawa (commonly called Niger) is at present once more seriously thought of in the plan of Lieutenant M'Leod, R.N., which, there is little doubt, is superior to any previous one, and justifies the hope of success. If this project be realized, it would be worthy of consideration to attempt the further exploration of the Tchadda on the same excellent plan. This river, as is well known, unites with the Kawa not far from its mouth, 'which it certainly rivals, if it does not surpass it in magnificence.' That this immense river—a second Niger—extends right into the heart of Inner Africa, was conjectured some time since; but only last year was this supposition corroborated by the actual exploration of Dr. Barth, who, in his journey to Adamana, crossed the Benué, a splendid river half a mile broad and ten feet deep, which he ascertained to be the upper course of the Tchadda. From all that Dr. Barth says in his last, as well as in his previous letters, we are inclined to think that the Tchadda will eventually form the natural and most important line from the west for spreading commerce and civilization into the very heart of Inner Africa, and extinguishing the slave trade by extending European influence to the sources of the slave supply. The Sheikh of Bornu has repeatedly expressed to the two travellers his desire of forming a closer bond of friendship with the English for the purpose of establishing a peaceful and regular commerce, and abolishing the slave trade; and the best proof of his sincerity towards the English is, the kind and generous manner in which he has at all times treated their representatives. The kingdom of Adamana, situated in the valley of the upper Tchadda, with its pastoral and agricultural population, is spoken of as the most beautiful country in Central Africa, and as such may probably become the key to the interior of that continent. At present the town of Kano, situated between the Kawa and Lake Taad, is the great mart of the interior; there the English merchandise coming from the north by the very tedious and imperfect roads through the Great Desert, meets with the American merchandise coming by steam up the Kawa from the south, where, as is well known, American influence is spreading fast. The Great Desert will ever form a natural barrier and prevent the establishing of European commerce of any considerable magnitude; it is to the Kawa and the Tchadda, and more particularly the latter, that we must look as the means of a ready access into the virgin countries and the inexhaustible natural wealth of Inner Africa."

—Our readers have had the opportunity of tracing in these columns the important labours of Richardson, Overweg and Barth to open up the interior of Africa, and its races, to the knowledge of Western Europe,—and if we would secure to ourselves the full results of the opportunity, we must look to the co-operation of our own Government. It would be a comparatively easy and inexpensive matter to follow in the tracks of such discoverers to the important objects which invite us to Central Africa:—and we do think, as our Correspondent seems to think, that the British Association might well have come to our aid with the weight of its authority in such a matter.

While on this subject, we may mention with pleasure that Mr. Petermann, whose interest in the subject is well known to the readers of the *Athenæum*, is, we understand, preparing for publication, by authority of Her Majesty's Government, a set of Maps and Views, with descriptive letter-press, illustrating the progress of the Expedition to Central Africa above referred to—from 1849 to 1853. For the purposes of the work, the official and private documents bearing on the subject have, we are assured, been put at Mr. Petermann's disposal.

The particular Lord Mayoralty of London which is now fast drawing to a close will have left its mark conspicuously and honourably in the annals of the office. Under the enlightened interpretation of the present Chief Magistrate we have had quite a new reading of the duties and capabilities of the civic chair,—and the City has taken a place in the great intellectual movement of the age such as for many years past it has not thought it worth its while to assume. Out of the windows of the huge gilt coach the Lord Mayor has looked abroad on the great mental stir and educational muster which

are going on without,—and in the name of the rich and powerful constituency which he represents has claimed his right to be a leader in the cause of civilization. There have been assemblies at the Mansion House in the present year such as can be got together only by a prince, with a prince's resources—yet such as the City princes trained in the true traditional Gog-Magog belief have had no thought of summoning thither. But it is not in the more conspicuous gatherings which invested the Chief Magistrate and his office with the illustration derived from the presence of the living representatives of Literature, Art, and Science within its walls, that the most convincing proofs are to be gathered of the strong and earnest purpose in the cause out of which those same greater assemblages also grew, by which the present Lord Mayor has brought such an accession of dignity to the chair which he is about to vacate. There have been, and are going on, a series of minor celebrations, making less public appeal, but conceived in the same spirit of progress,—which will make part of the history of his Lordship's Mayoralty when it shall have to be told,—which would not have occurred to a man playing for mere popularity rather than out of an earnest spirit,—and which would assuredly escape the apprehension of a mere imitator.—An example of the kind occurred on Friday in last week, when the Lord Mayor invited the "Grecians" of Christ's Hospital and the Prizemen of the City of London School to dine with him at the Mansion House, previously to their going up to the Universities—by way of marking with honour the earliest laurel which they had won in their contest with their fellows, and stimulating them to struggle for those further prizes which lie on the long path before them, to be gathered by the intellectual workers. Thirteen Christ's Hospital "Grecians," as they are called, in the quaint costume of the school, and three City of London Scholars, sat down amid the Lord Mayor's family and friends, to share the traditional hospitalities of the Mansion House, accompanied by the Masters who had a share in the triumph:—and to make up the very peculiar and pleasant flavour of the occasion, the Lord Mayor had invited a few literary men to meet them. These sixteen strong young men, as they fronted the Lord Mayor accoutred for the battle of life— and strengthening themselves abundantly for the same on the good things which his hospitality had provided—could not but strike all who were present on the occasion as a somewhat curious departure from the old City traditions, and an entirely new version of the "Men in Armour."

The obituary of the last fortnight includes the name of Dr. Curie,—one of the leading apostles and practitioners of homeopathy in London,—and who has published, if we mistake not, a work or two on the subject.

A letter has been received by the Colonial and International Postage Association from the Governor of Van Diemen's Land,—stating, in reply to a letter from the Association, that a bill is in course of preparation, to be laid before the Legislative Council at its next sitting, in which the Government proposes to discontinue the charge for postage on all letters received from other countries, and to require the payment of 1d. or 2d., as the Council may decide, instead of 4d. as charged at present, on letters forwarded from Van Diemen's Land to places beyond the seas.—This is exactly in accordance with the principles proposed by the Association, and which were received most cordially at the Statistical Congress held the other day in Brussels.

The result of the Conference recently held at Brussels respecting the best mode of making systematic and uniform meteorological observations at sea by all maritime nations is, a long Report strongly urging the necessity of an immediate co-operation in a general system of meteorological research.—It is recommended, that a mercurial marine barometer should be contrived which might be sold at a moderate price, and at the same time be perfectly trustworthy,—the present instruments in use being almost worthless. The aneroid barometer is not recommended. The Conference is

also of opinion that an anemometer which will enable the navigator to measure the force, direction, and velocity of the wind at sea is a desideratum.—Various thermometers are recommended; and in order that there should be uniformity of record, a form of register for all observations was concerted and agreed on. Already the Governments of several nations have expressed their intention of adopting the recommendations contained in the Report; and there is little doubt, that if the observations be made in the manner advised, and with improved instruments, there will be a vast gain in a few years to our meteorological knowledge, which cannot fail to be of signal benefit to navigation.

Some of our contemporaries mention a project gracefully entertained by our kinsmen—the American "pilgrims"—of contributing stained glass memorial windows to the Church at Stratford-upon-Avon in which Shakspeare is buried.

The Manchester Mechanics' Institute, the first of its kind in England, after some few fluctuations of fortune—some gathering of experiences which have been useful to itself and to others—appears to have recently entered into a new career of prosperity. The original building—erected at a time when labour and materials were both much cheaper than at present, at a cost of 6,600*l.*—is unable to accommodate the number of members borne into it by the new tide of success. Its friends, therefore, in fullest confidence that the hold which it has lately taken on the particular public to which it addresses itself is neither fictitious nor fugitive, are making efforts to obtain a fund sufficient for the construction of a larger building on a new and more commodious site. The new structure—which is to have an architectural as well as a useful character—is to cost, according to the estimates, not less than 10,000*l.*—towards which sum we already notice that 5,000*l.* have been obtained in subscriptions.—We notice, as a hint worth the attention of parties engaged in similar undertakings elsewhere, that the old semi-circular form of the lecture theatre, with tiers of seats rising above each other, has been abandoned, in the new design, in favour of a long room with a flat floor. Though convenient in some respects, the experience of twenty-eight years has convinced the directors that the tier-form of theatre is not the one best adapted to the requirements of a popular institution.

The proposed Milton Club—some particulars of which have been already laid before our readers—has obtained a site on Ludgate Hill, under the shadow of St. Paul's, and about midway between Milton's well-known several London dwellings in St. Bride's Churchyard and in the Old Jewry. The structure, which should add a new ornament to Ludgate Hill, is to cost about 30,000*l.*—about five-sixths of which sum, we are given to understand, have already been obtained from parties connected with the Nonconformist body.

The winter programme of the Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution offers a list of lectures for the coming season the chief feature of which is the oddity of its arrangement. No subject is treated consecutively. That vain struggle for variety which has been the bane of so many literary Institutes—placing them on the same level as the singing saloon and the cheap theatre—seems to have been carried in this instance to the utmost limit of imperfection. For example, the first lecture-night is occupied by a lecture on 'The Senate,'—the next, by a Vocal Entertainment,—this is followed by notes on the 'Character of St. Dunstan,'—by a lecture on 'Celebrated Forensic Orators,'—'Instinct and Reason in Animals,'—'Remarkable Women of the Present Century,'—'John Bunyan,'—'Italian School of Music,'—'The Sun and Earth,'—'Satirical Literature,'—and 'Woman's Heart,' being Miss Vandenhoff's play of that name, read by herself. This distribution of subjects is one likely to defeat all serious purpose of public instruction, and is a waste of valuable means to that end. Three of the lecturers are ladies; and among those of the other sex we notice Prof. Hunt and Mr. Hannay.

Continental journals announce, that the remains of Don Fernandez de Moratin, one of the latest dramatic authors of Spain, and who died in Paris in 1828, are about to be exhumed from their

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French burial-place and to be transferred to Madrid for interment.

If we are to believe the *Weer Zeitung*—no longer edited by the Oriental Dr. Bodenstedt,—science is likely to come to blows in the far East. The American Expedition to Japan, of which our readers have heard on several late occasions, has, it is said, been followed by a Russian war squadron, with a view to watch its proceedings, and if need be to resist them.—The fact that a Russian squadron is in the Japan seas, is placed beyond doubt by intelligence reaching us through various channels; but that its object there is to oppose the opening of Japan to the enterprise and civilization of Europe, or that it has for mission in any way to interrupt the progress of American discovery, is scarcely credible. Should it be so, we take it that the powers at Washington, having the interest of their Pacific sea-board at stake, as well as the scientific results in pursuit of which they are making such commendable efforts in various latitudes, will know how to pursue their honourable and useful task with or without permission of the Court of St. Petersburg. But, we repeat, for our own part, we must refuse to believe, until better evidence is produced than the averments of the Russo-German *Weer Zeitung*, that any such interference with the Japan Expedition can be intended.

Salford should take a hint from Manchester as to the management of its Free Library. Salford has got a noble site for its young institution,—and a collection of books which we are told is good, if not yet large. It began its operations, however, in a spirit less liberal—less generous in its interpretation of the wants and worthiness of working men—than its neighbour. It refused to lend its treasures—to let the toiling millions carry home, for family use, the books which it had gathered in the public name. In favour of such a policy many precedents could be quoted,—against it, none. Happily, Manchester was more daring—more disposed to reject tradition and rely on nature. Seeing how short the hours of leisure are in either town—how distant even a central library must be from many quarters (and it is the accidental misfortune of the case that neither the Manchester nor the Salford Library is central), the former town did well to try the experiment of lending books to its industrial thousands. The result, as noted by us a week or two since, is valuable for itself—as a generous return to a generous inspiration,—and for other towns as an example. Most of all, it is an assurance for Salford. Salford men and women are precisely like Manchester men and women in their wants, their aptitudes, their habits. A need in one town is a need in the other,—a possibility in one is of course a possibility in the other. If one year's trial of this experiment has shown that of the several departments of the Manchester Free Library the lending department has been that most largely drawn on,—the men of Salford may be well assured that a lending department is required for the completion of their own promising institution.—The Free Library of the latter town has been re-opened, after the temporary closing rendered necessary for repairs and extensions,—the rooms being too small for the number of books and readers. Hitherto the Library Committee had followed the example of the British Museum and Chetham College in closing their reading-room at dusk; an arrangement which prevented the factory workers and other artisans from enjoying any benefit in the institution except on holidays,—days of rare occurrence in Salford. This part of their plan, we are glad to hear, is now about to be changed. The rooms will be lighted with gas—the most brilliant and most manageable of luminous agents,—and the toilers of the town will be able to read such books as suit their taste on the premises of the institution after the day's work is done, until such time as the Committee may find itself disposed to follow the system of their neighbours and to establish at the Peel Park a lending library for the million.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street. ST. PETERSBURGH and CONSTANTINOPLE are exhibited immediately preceding the DIORAMA of the OCEAN MAIL (via the Cape to India and Australia).—Daily, at 3 and 8. Admission, 1s; Stalls, 2s 6d; Reserved Seats, 3s; Children, Half-price.

COLOSSEUM, Regent's Park.—Admission 1s.—The original PANORAMA of LONDON BY DAY is exhibited Daily from half-past Ten till Five. The extraordinary PANORAMA of LONDON BY NIGHT, from Seven till Ten. Music from Two till Five, and during the evening, several favourite Songs by Miss A. Poole.

CYCLOPAMA, Albany Street.—LISBON AND EARTHQUAKE.—This celebrated and unique Moving Panorama, representing the destruction of Lisbon by Earthquake in 1755, is exhibited Daily, at Three; Evening, at Eight o'clock.—Admission, 1s; Children and Schools, half-price for either Exhibition.

GREAT GLOBE, Leicester Square.—TURKEY IN EUROPE.—LECTURES on the GEOGRAPHY of TURKEY in EUROPE and ASIA, and the surrounding Countries of RUSSIA and PERSIA.—Open from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.—Admission, 1s; Schools, Half-price.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION.—AN EXHIBITION of PICTURES, by the most celebrated French, Italian, and English Photographers, embracing views of the principal countries and cities of Europe, is now OPEN. Admission 6d. A portrait taken by Mr. Talbot's patent process, One Guinea; three extra copies for 10s.—Photographic Institution, 168, New Bond-street.

SCIENTIFIC

SOCIETIES.

ENTOMOLOGICAL. — Sept. 5.—J. O. Westwood, Esq., V.P. in the chair.—Mr. Weir exhibited the rare *Coleophora Wockella*, bred from a case found attached to *Genista tinctoria*, *Gelechia lentiginosella*, also very rare hitherto, bred from the same plant, and *Tortrix drometana*, a scarce and local species, from Lewes. Mr. Edwin Shepherd exhibited *Heliothis peltigera* and several other rare Lepidoptera from Dover. Mr. Stevens exhibited a new British species of *Simæthis* from Arundel. Mr. Wing exhibited *Ypsolophus verbasellus*, a new British species bred from *Verbascum floccosum* from Norwich, and *Excoecetia Allinella* from Lowestoft. Mr. Douglas exhibited the rare *Gelechia Brizella* and *Coleophora binotapennella*, new to this country, both from Brighton; also Lepidopterous larvae, species unknown, mining in leaves of *Cornus sanguinea*, remarkable for being destitute of true legs, and for the manner in which when full fed they cut out cases in which to hybernate. Mr. Stainton exhibited a shoot of *Polygonum hydropiper* having on its leaves the curious conical cases formed by the larvae of *Gracillaria Phasiana pennella*, gathered near Glogau, in Prussian Silesia, and forwarded by Prof. Zeller.—An extract of a letter from Mr. J. Scott, of Renfrew, was read,—stating that he had recently taken a quantity of *Gelechia cerebella*, in a granary in which barley, both British and foreign, had been deposited. The appearance of this insect in this country is worthy of being carefully watched; for in many parts of France and the south of Europe it is a complete pest, and in the larva state destroys vast quantities of grain.—A letter was read from Dr. Candèze, of Liège, stating his desire to communicate with any English entomologists who may be willing to exchange English or exotic species of Elateridae for those of Belgium or of France, in order to make as complete as possible a monograph of the family which he was about to commence.—A new part of the Society's 'Transactions' was stated to be ready for distribution.

MEETING FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Tues. Horticultural, 3.

BAROMETRIC PENDULUMS.

The report in the *Athenæum* of the proceedings of the British Association, Section A, contains an abstract of a paper of mine 'On a proposed Barometric Pendulum.' When that paper was read, I had not been able to ascertain the existence of any previous proposal to record the barometric pressure by means of the variations of the rate of a clock; but I have since then learned, that Mr. G. F. Hall sent an instrument of this kind to the Exhibition of 1851. In Mr. Hall's instrument, the barometric pendulum oscillates in a vertical plane, while in that proposed by me it revolves in a conical surface. It appears to me, that the revolving pendulum is to be preferred,—as in it the surface of the mercury will remain steady during each revolution; while in the oscillating pendulum it must to a certain extent vibrate up and down with the swing of the pendulum.

I am, &c., W. J. MACQUORN RANKINE.
39, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, Oct. 7.

SCIENTIFIC GOSSIP.—Artificial Production of Diamond Powder.—Some considerable sensation

has been produced in the scientific circles of Paris by the announcement of the artificial formation of diamond powder. M. Despretz has made two communications to the *Académie des Sciences* upon carbon. In these, he states, that placing at one, the inferior, pole of a voltaic battery a cylinder of pure charcoal (its purity being secured by preparing it from crystallized white sugar candy), and at the superior pole a bundle of fine platinum wires so arranged that the charcoal was in the red portion of the electric arc, and the platinum in the violet,—he found the carbon volatilized, and collected on the platinum wires in a changed state. In these experiments the current has been continued during a month in activity, and the powder collected on the wires has been found to be sufficiently hard to polish rubies with great rapidity, and when burnt it left no residue. M. Despretz asks himself,—Have I obtained crystals of carbon which I can separate and weigh, in which I can determine the index of refraction and the angle of polarization without doubt? No; I have simply produced by the electric arc, and by weak voltaic currents, carbon crystallized in black octohedrons, in colourless and translucent octohedrons, in plates also colourless and translucent, which possess the hardness of the powder of the diamond, and which disappear in combustion without any sensible residue.—A similar result has been obtained by decomposing a mixture of chloride of carbon and alcohol by weak galvanic currents. The black powder deposited was found to possess equal hardness with that which was sublimed, and rubies were readily polished by it. A few years since, graphite and coke were formed from diamonds:—we now appear to be advancing towards the conversion of graphite and coke into diamonds.

FINE ARTS

MR. SAMUEL WILLIAMS.

Mr. Samuel Williams, one of the best engravers on wood whom this country has produced, died on the 19th of September last, in his sixty-fifth year.

Mr. Williams was born, on the 23rd of February 1788, at Colchester, in Essex, of poor but respectable parents. A love of Art came very early on him,—and he was a mere boy when he determined on becoming a painter. He soon obtained materials for carrying out the bent of his ambition,—and in the green meadows and lanes around his native city he had ample range for the study of his favourite art. His early easel works, if the pictures of a boy may be honoured with such a name, are said to display all that observation of nature, animate and inanimate, which his woodcuts in after-life never fail to suggest. He was not destined, however, to be a painter. Those who live to please it is said by our great moralist, must please to live,—and the money that his boyish efforts as a painter failed to procure for him he was now to obtain as a journeyman compositor. He was apprenticed to a Mr. Marsden, a printer in Colchester,—and became in this way connected with illustrated works. Bewick had brought the art of wood-engraving into great repute; and the boy at Colchester who would have been a painter found an outlet for his art, and a remunerative employment for his leisure hours, in designing and engraving on wood. His master appreciated his services; and when the term of his time was out, he started on his own account as an engraver, first at Colchester, and afterwards in London—that crowded mart of every kind of employment, but where there is ever an opening for a clear head, clever hands, and honourable dealing.

It was long before Mr. Williams made any great way,—or was known as more than a clever assistant to other men—who did his work well, and would in time do it still better. His skill in design recommended him to Messrs. Harvey & Darton, and to other booksellers,—who were glad to have a design and an engraving from the same hand at a cheaper rate than they could get them when the engraver was not designer too. He executed in this way many anonymous engravings,—evinced skill in design and dexterity in the nicer touches of his art;—but no collection of them is known to exist,—unless, indeed, he may have himself left

one—not by any means a common practice among professors of his art. His name was first known beyond the shops of booksellers and the little region of his own art by some carefully designed and still more carefully engraved illustrations to the 'Tasso' of Mr. Wiffen.

If the 'Tasso' illustrations were delicate, and perhaps over-pretty in point of execution, his next designs of any moment were of a very different character. We allude to his illustrations to Hone's 'Every Day Book' and to Whittingham's edition of 'Robinson Crusoe.' In the former we find great freedom of pencil and great fertility of fancy:—while in the latter we miss that Stothard-like realization of Defoe's delightful romance, which has made the 'Robinson Crusoe' of Stothard the 'Robinson Crusoe' of the admirers of Defoe.

Nor was Mr. Williams's industry less remarkable than his skill. He was seldom without a block before him or without a graver in his hand. He was fond of designing,—but is said to have felt greater pleasure in engraving landscapes and small bits of English scenery. His works in this way testify to the pleasure which he must have had in translating Nature. What exquisite little bits of English sylvan life may be seen in his edition of Thomson's 'Seasons'! Whenever the history of wood-engraving in this country shall be again written, the name of Mr. Samuel Williams will be mentioned with honour.—His talent, we are glad to think, is hereditary. Mr. Joseph Lionel Williams, his son, has worked on wood with all his father's skill.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—We observe that the Provincial Schools of Design are gradually extending their basis and improving their management. The following sensible announcement has recently been issued by the Glasgow Committee. They say:—"It is now the object of Government to make those national Institutions, the Schools of Art, useful to all classes of the community, and therefore, whilst the existing provision for the education of the working classes in a knowledge of Art is to be maintained, new arrangements have been made to provide instruction in various branches of Art for the middle and upper classes of society, besides which a system is now being organized for the general diffusion of instruction in elementary drawing throughout the country. It is the desire of Government that the industrial classes should be educated in a knowledge of Art in the most complete manner which can be devised, at a charge within their means. To effect this important object, an attempt is about to be made to disseminate elementary instruction in parish and other schools, and to make elementary drawing a part of general education, concurrently with writing. With a further view to the promotion of this object, a normal class has been established in the central school in Ingram Street, in which instruction is afforded to male and female teachers *gratis*; and further steps for the promotion of this important object, by the encouragement of qualified teachers, and the provision of models and examples, are under the consideration of Government, or are in operation. The classes hitherto open for the benefit of the industrial population will be conducted as formerly, with improvements suggested by experience; and to accommodate ladies and gentlemen desirous of benefiting by the extensive means of education within the power of the Committee of Management, hours have been set apart for special classes, in which instruction will be afforded in the highest branches of Art. The general direction of the classes and inspection of schools has been intrusted to Mr. Charles Heath Wilson, A.R.S.A. and R.I.A., superintendent of the central school."

The prizes of the Royal Manchester Institution Exhibition have been awarded as follows:—to Mr. C. W. Cope, R.A., a prize of 50 guineas for his picture of 'Othello relating his Adventures,' as the best painting in oil of a scene in dramatic literature; to Mr. William Linton, for his picture of Venice, a prize of 50 guineas; and to Edward H. Corbould, the Heywood silver medal, worth 20 guineas in money, for his drawing of 'The Magic Mirror.'

Humphrey Chetham—founder of the noble library in Manchester which bears his name, and who is otherwise one of the wealthiest of the Lancashire worthies—has at last obtained his statue. The figure, by Mr. Theed, is placed in the Cathedral church, under a richly stained oriel window prepared and painted for the occasion. Such recognitions of departed worth are always pleasant:—and in this case we hope to see the work of recognition carried a few paces beyond the statue and the painted window. A few yards from the spot on which the statue stands, under its flood of ruby and golden lights, lie the remains of the Lancashire scholar in a side chapel, the dirty and dilapidated condition of which appears all the more striking in face of the new commemoration. Could not the men of Manchester, now that their hand is on the work, contrive to remove the ladders, planks, brooms, buckets, and other miscellaneous rubbish, from the resting-place of their fellow-townsmen and benefactor?

A monument to the late Earl of Belfast is, we see, proposed to be erected, by subscription, in his native town of Belfast:—and Mr. Macdowell is to execute the statue in bronze of which it has been determined that it shall consist,—for the price, we believe, of 1,500*l*.

Letters from Rome inform us that the agents sent to Europe by the Government of Bolivia have selected sculptures for the great national monument of their Liberator after a new and unusually eclectic fashion. The statue itself is entrusted to Signor Tadolini. The base of the monument is to be executed by Signor Guscherini. The twelve allegorical figures which are to surround the statue are to come from the studios of eleven different artists of eleven different nations:—The South American agents having so far relaxed the severity of their eclectic rule as to have commissioned Signor Gajassi to execute two of these figures. On the whole, the monument to Bolivar promises to be one of the most polyglot pieces of sculpture known to the arts. The proceeding of the agents in thus breaking up their monument into thirteen fragments—each fragment, it may be, representing a different style of thinking and of manipulation—may be a not unfair expression of the unfixed character of the lands from which they come; but it will be vain to expect in a work so constructed that unity of idea—that consonance of sentiment and forms—that harmony of leading features and minute details—which constitute the charm and the power of all complex sculptural works, from Michael Angelo's Tomb of the Medici to Rauch's magnificent group of Frederick the Great and his Contemporaries.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

OLYMPIC THEATRE (Lessee and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN) will open on MONDAY, October 17, with an introductory Extravaganza, called 'THE CAMP AT THE OLYMPIC,' in which will appear Messrs. A. Wigan, Emery, F. Robson, Cooper, and Galli; Mesdames A. Wigan, Stirling, F. Horton, Chatterly, E. Turner and Wyndham. After which, an Original Drama, in Three Acts, called 'THE MASTER PASSION.' Principal characters, Messrs. F. Robson, Emery, Leslie, Cooper, White and A. Wigan; Miss E. Turner and Mrs. Stirling.—Box-office open from Eleven to Four. Doors open at Seven, and commence at Half past Seven. Stalls, 3*s*.; Boxes, 4*s*.; Pit, 2*s*.; Gallery 1*s*.

SADLER'S WELLS.—On Saturday this management produced its new revival—the 'Midsummer Night's Dream.' With a vivid recollection of the manner in which Madame Vestris mounted this charming poem during her management at Covent Garden, we carried to the suburban theatre a high standard by which to test the new spectacular illustrations. We can conscientiously record, that we had reason nevertheless to be greatly pleased with the amount of excellence displayed. The fairy glitter, the elfin sportiveness, the classical sternness, the comic eccentricity, and the amorous perplexity, were all well provided for. The frolic *Puck* was cleverly represented by young Mr. Artis; who had, it was evident, been elaborately drilled for the occasion,—and gave an amount of grotesque action which, though exuberant, was not unpleasant. The *Helena* of Miss Cooper was very good, more than once rising into a pathetic utterance that, amidst the wildness of the general accessories, moved the heart with a touch of reality,—lending a delightful natural interest to fantastic adventure,

and redeeming the improbability of the situation. Miss Travers in *Hermia* was respectable. *Oberon* and *Titania* were attempted by Miss Hickson and Miss Wyatt;—the latter showing some power,—and the former considerable grace. But the distinguishing feature of the revival was the assumption of the part of *Bottom* by Mr. Phelps. In such eccentric creations Mr. Phelps has already been as happy as he has been original; and in the present one he has exerted all his invention and skill. The nervous character of the weaver, with the angularity of his movements, particularly those of his arms and legs,—ever ready to do any thing, and giving to all expressions an equal emphasis, as the result of an ever-active and highly stimulated temperament,—eternally gesticulating, and overflowing with self-importance,—these accidents and attributes of disposition and occupation were seized on by the actor with great judgment and actualized with corresponding skill. The ass's head which he is doomed to wear turned out to be a machine well contrived for expression,—the ears and jaws being capable of appropriate gesture, provocative of laughter. When relieved from this skull cap, and endeavouring to recollect his dream, *Bottom* in the hands of Mr. Phelps became a remarkable artistic presentment. His perplexity, as he endeavoured to retrace his vision, was elaborately delineated; and this was succeeded by some admirable by-play, in which, without a word spoken, the pantomimic action was suggestive of an entire soliloquy concerning the mysterious loss of the long ears and beard so recently worn. As he makes his exit, we see clearly enough that *Bottom* gives up the whole as an insoluble problem. Then comes the incident of the mock play,—which was presented in all its integrity; the result being, a complete justification of the poet, and a most amusing piece of stage-foolery.—Mr. Marston delivered his part of *Theseus* with great propriety, the poetical speeches being picked out with care and set with effect.—The scenery, by Mr. Fenton, was throughout beautiful, and much of the grouping was highly picturesque.

PRINCESS'S.—This theatre opened on Monday with 'Sardanapalus,' to a numerous audience. On Tuesday, Sheridan's comedy of 'The Rivals' was produced with new costumes and some new scenery. Mr. W. Lacy, as *Captain Absolute*, acted with ease and spirit; and Mr. Addison, as his choleric father, with sufficient force. On Mr. Harley's *Bob Acres* it would be superfluous to offer laboured criticism: it is, what it always was, a clever impersonation. Mrs. Winstanley as *Mrs. Malaprop* looked and acted magnificently. We were also pleased with Miss Heath's *Julia*, which was unostentatiously but sufficiently pronounced. Mr. Mellon made his debut as *Sir Lucius O'Trigger*, and performed it so well, that we look forward to his Hibernian personations with interest and expectation.

ADELPHI.—A piece produced last winter at the *Théâtre du Gymnase*, called 'Un Fils de Famille,' by MM. Bayard and Biéville, has been translated and adapted by Mr. B. Webster for the London stage, under the title of 'The Discarded Son.' This *comédie vaudeville*, simple in plot, but well elaborated in detail, is constructed on the principle of testing to the utmost the patience of an audience, and getting an interest out of the suspense produced by a succession of petty incidents, combined with ingenuity, and illustrated by stage-artifices implying the practised playwright. There is one incident towards the end to which all others had been subordinate, and which is accordingly "written up to" (as the process is called) from the opening of the play, as the crowning effect, if not the catastrophe, of the previous plot. In this case, it is a piece of wanton physical suffering, calculated to sicken the stomach, not to touch the heart. A strict disciplinarian, one *Colonel Fernain* (Mr. C. Selby) has reason to complain of *Albert Blondel*, a lancer (Mr. L. Murray), for being absent from drill,—and cites him before him for examination. The young man has actually spent the interval in plain clothes at the chateau of the *Comtesse de Belrose* (Miss Woolgar) in company with the Colonel himself, without being recognized,—had purposely insulted the latter there,—and had been wounded

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in the arm by him in a duel. On meeting with the Colonel again at barracks, on occasion of the examination aforesaid, the young fellow feigns intoxication, in order the better to disguise his identity; but the Colonel's suspicions are gradually aroused,—and in order to clear up his doubts, he inflicts a prolonged pinch on the wounded arm until the poor delinquent nearly faints with the torture. The courage of the latter, however, sustains him to the last; and the Colonel quits the scene without having obtained the satisfaction which he sought. Albert is subsequently borne, half dead with loss of blood, to the infirmary. This, as we have said, is the one point for which the whole piece is written; and one more objectionable on the score of dramatic taste can, we think, scarcely be conceived.—If we add, that the hero is the discarded son of a Parisian banker's family,—that the Countess de Belrose, betrothed to the Colonel, has, in the disguise of a peasant, inspired in Albert, and conceived for him, a devoted love,—and that in the end, the Colonel, stern as he is, and even cruel, shows that he has a tolerable heart, and resigns his bride to his victim with a good grace,—we shall have told all that need here be detailed of the plot.—Mr. Murray's acting was very natural and effective; and the bearing of the eccentric Colonel was cleverly sustained by Mr. Selby. As peasant and countess, Miss Woolgar succeeded in rendering the contrast, and the various delicate nuances that arise out of it, with that skilful distribution of minute traits which reconciles differences and produces an artistic harmony from nicely blended opposites.

MARYLEBONE.—We have already stated, that this theatre is now under new management,—no less, in fact, than that of Mr. John William Wallack, the tragedian of the Haymarket. His company has been selected principally from the Olympic performers; and such light pieces as 'A Cure for the Heart-ache,' 'The Fair One with the Golden Locks,' and 'Broken Toys,' have been already presented. The audiences have been numerous and respectable; and there seems reason to believe that this hitherto very deceptive house may yet keep faith with enterprise judiciously directed. Miss Gordon, as *Graceful*, in the burlesque, both by her singing and by her acting has become already popular; and Mr. H. Vandenhoff has evinced a vivacity of style in his acting calculated to secure his position as a local favourite.

DRURY LANE.—Mr. Brooke has repeated his characters during his re-engagement; and on Wednesday another morning performance was given,—the play chosen being 'Virginia.' The selection of this tragedy and of that of 'Othello' for these special occasions is intended doubtless to suggest that these two characters are considered the actor's most successful ones; and in this appreciation we believe that most critics will concur. In all his other assumptions Mr. Brooke is too uniformly violent. In these, the occasional vehemence is compensated for by passages of great pathos, and poetical bits musically delivered. The houses still continue to be crowded; and the old drama, under the accidental influence of this special histrionic avatar, is found to be attractive without the aid of spectacle, novel costume, or fresh scene-painting.—But we reserve our reflections to the fitting opportunity.

MR. GEORGE ONSLOW.

SOME years ago, when the immediate surprise and delight excited by Beethoven's earliest works had subsided, and before chamber-musicians or chamber-audiences had begun to relish his later compositions,—before also the peculiar genius of Mendelssohn was fully developed,—the music of Onslow was in great request among our choicer amateurs, and the announcement of his death might have excited a livelier regret than it will now excite. Yet, in more respects than one, the composer just deceased claims an honourable mention amongst the distinguished and individual artists of the past half-century.

He was born at Clermont, in the Puy-de-Dôme, in July, 1784. His father was a member of the well-known English family,—his mother a

Brantôme. Thus, he learned music merely as a gentleman's accomplishment; and though he studied the pianoforte under Hullmandel, Dussek, and Cramer, besides learning the violoncello, it was not, we are assured, till some time after boyhood was passed that a hearing of Méhul's Overture to 'Stratonic' excited in him that desire of trying to exercise creative power which was only to be allayed by his devoting his life to the study and production of music. Unlike many other amateurs who confound wishes with means and ideas with complete works—determined, too, to undertake musical composition in its most delicate and complex and intellectual forms,—Onslow, we are assured by M. Fétis, shut himself up and toiled laboriously ere he gave out his first stringed Quintett; from that time until within a short period of his death producing and publishing unceasingly most successful as well as most fertile compositions for the chamber. A few Symphonies, and three Operas (no one of which is particularly striking), 'L'Alcalde de la Vega,' 'Le Colporteur,' and 'Le Duc de Guise,' are the only other works by Onslow which have been laid before the world. So far as we are aware, he never attempted sacred composition.

The large mass of chamber music, however, finished by Onslow well merits the epithet of remarkable. It is thoroughly original without being extraordinarily striking,—delicate and interesting without sickliness or the absence of occasional vigour,—suave in phrases, ingenious in structure,—not always, it may be, sufficiently varied by happy strokes of episode, but always thoroughly well reasoned out, and interesting to the players, from the closeness of attention and readiness in dialogue, reply, and imitation which it demands. During later years—as frequently happens with those whose first thoughts are more pleasing than powerful—Onslow, in straining after novelty and contrast, became only affected or fragmentary. This may have done its part in abating the zeal and sympathy of his admirers;—but enough remains from his pen to be referred to, to be returned upon, to be performed and partaken of with pleasure, so long as music is bound by its present laws, and as those who enjoy it retain their present canons of enjoyment. It would be superfluous to single out any of the well-known Quintetts which have won for Onslow an European celebrity,—or to do more than mention his Pianoforte *Sextuor*, his Pianoforte Duets in *F* minor and *E* minor, his Pianoforte Trio in *G* major (a singularly sweet and gracious specimen of his style), his Pianoforte Sonatas, with violin (in *G* minor and *E* major), and with violoncello (in *F* major and *G* minor). The above are all classical works, having a beauty, an intricacy, and an expressiveness totally their own,—appealing to the thoughtful, as opposed to the sensual musician,—happily conceived and carefully finished.

The habits of Onslow's life were gentle and retired, tending to encourage self-occupation. He resided principally in his native Auvergne,—travelled little, we believe, save to Paris, where he succeeded to Cherubini's membership of the *Académie des Beaux Arts*,—and mixed in the concerns of the world of music only sparingly and occasionally. The kindness of his nature took the form of an over-graciousness of manner, which made intercourse with him fatiguing to all such as prefer discriminating judgment and fresh, if irregular, sallies of humour to compliment be it ever so courtly, or approval be it ever so sincere. His health had been for some time declining,—but his death, at the close of a walk, was sudden. It is presumed that it may be followed by some votive honours in the country to which by right of citizenship, and more by the manner of his art, he may be said most closely to belong.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—It is now settled, we believe, that Madame Grisi and Signor Mario will not go to America this winter: since the opera-house in New York, the performances of which they were to inaugurate, is in no state of readiness to receive them,—and therefore the fulfilment of their Transatlantic engagement is postponed for another twelvemonth. On the other hand, Signor Mario has "signed and sealed" to sing at the Italian opera in Paris during the coming winter,—the season to commence on the 15th of November. It is, as yet, undecided whether the lady and gentleman will appear at Covent Garden next year or not. Meanwhile, letters from the most opposite corners of England assure us the provincial tour of artists has been successful beyond all precedent.

On Signor Calzolari is imposed the difficult task of filling the place in the opera company at St. Petersburg vacated by the resignation of Signor Mario.—Signor Frederico Ricci, the composer, will direct the orchestra,—and a new opera of his writing will be produced during the coming season.—A new opera by our townsman Signor Bileta is, we believe, to be given during the Carnival of 1854 at Parma.

Among other operas by English composers that wait for a future the provoking distance of which amounts to an anomaly, we hear of a new work by Mr. Duggan,—of whose powers as a melodist we have often had occasion to speak highly.

The name of Mr. Lowell Mason, the American Professor of Psalmody, has for some time past been well known in England,—and his lectures in London, as our readers are aware, excited considerable interest among those who occupy themselves with congregational singing. This has made us turn to his contributions to the new collection of 'Congregational Church Music,' opened by a preface by the Rev. T. Binney, with more than usual interest. We cannot like these so well as we could wish to do. Every nation, we are aware, has its own taste in psalmody: and it is possible that Transatlantic church and chapel-goers may find some of the tunes solemn which to us appear secular,—but to English apprehensions the specimens by Mr. Lowell Mason published are chargeable with a tendency to rhythmical prettiness and frivolity which hardly fulfils the expectations excited by the tone and taste of his lectures.—Ere we leave this 'Congregational Church Music' (without much prospect of returning to it for review), we wish to call attention to No. 101—from a *Corale* by Ebeling, 1666,—not because of any remarkable dignity in the melody, but because of a singularity in its rhythm, which is identical with that of 'God save the King.' This seems to establish, that the absence of two bars in the first half of the stanza of our National Hymn (by some fastidious persons objected to as a crudity) is neither a caprice nor an accident, but was customary,—in obedience to the laws of a known metre.

Having been led away from American essays on and *at* music, to notice a curiosity belonging to a different world and epoch, we must take a fresh paragraph to announce the publication at Leipzig of a Quartett by Mr. C. C. Perkins, the gentleman of whom the *Athenæum* has already spoken as the first American who has devoted himself to classical instrumental composition. So far as we can judge of this Quartett by examining its single parts, the themes appear pleasing—the working of them neat—and the taste of the whole laudable, as eschewing the modern defects calling themselves romanticisms against which there is reason to warn American musical imagination. We fancy that this may be too apt to begin where other worlds have ended. The minor German composers and *Kapellmeisters*—who have emigrated in such profusion to the Land of Promise—are not (as the race now goes) calculated to exercise a favourable influence on Transatlantic invention. The executive means and modes brought into the country by the *exodus* of German instrumentalists will be purchased dearly, if they be conveyed thither by a class of enthusiasts who begin to teach their new pupils and publics from the last Quartetts and Symphony of Beethoven before his first are thoroughly comprehended.—On this ground, we shall look for further appearances of Mr. Perkins with more than common interest.

Meanwhile, as might have been expected, the career of M. Jullien in the United States seems to demand its page in the same book of brilliancy as might record the successive triumphs of Mdlle.

Fanny Elssler, Mdlle. Jenny Lind, and Madame Sontag. He, too, has had his serenades and his triumphal processions—he, too, has given his charity concerts, in aid of worthy aims and ends—he, too, has hit the nationality of his hosts by an *improvisé fait à loisir*, the command to his orchestra, at the close of one of his concerts, to play, with all the vivacity and violence of sympathy, 'Yankee Doodle' and 'Hail, Columbia.'

The fecundity of M. A. Adam among opera composers almost rivals that of a certain literary statesman who has made much noise in the world of late, and who, being asked when "in his salad days" what he was doing, is said to have replied, "only writing several fashionable novels." We were told in Paris, the other day, that M. Adam has several unrepresented operas in his desk. One of these, in three acts, entitled 'Le Bijou Perdu,' has just been produced at the *Théâtre Lyrique* of Paris, with a success which appears to have been gained not so much by any great freshness or felicity in its music, as by the extraordinary excellence of a new *prima donna*, Madame Marie Cabel. Of her M. Bousquet writes in the *Gazette Musicale* with the utmost enthusiasm. If his account may be relied on, this Lady is really what Madame Ugalde pretended to be, or was (unaccountably to us) accepted as being, by the Parisian *cognoscenti*. Three young composers may be named as having justified the award of "the Roman prize" (education or study for a certain time at the Villa Medici) by their productions, the other day performed at the annual meeting of the *Académie des Beaux Arts*.—These are MM. Deléclie, Napoléon-Alkan, and Galibert.

M. Guilloire, a flutist, formerly of some Parisian renown, has died at St. Petersburg.

So far as we can gather, the Karlsruhe Musical Festival, devoted to the newest works of German romanticism, and directed by Dr. Liszt, has gone off respectably rather than brilliantly.—Mr. Balfe is superintending the production of his 'Keolanthe' at Vienna.

Mrs. Gibbs, late Miss Graddon, the popular ballad-singer, emerged on Thursday week from private life,—and at the Hibernian Hall, Regent Street, presented the critics with a new entertainment, intended for the public, connected with Irish scenery and traditions, and entitled 'The Emerald Isle.' It was accompanied with a series of pictorial illustrations by Mr. Charles S. James:—whose art had already been exemplified at the Marionette Theatre on the subject of the "Two Lands of Gold." On the present occasion he amply justified the reputation for cleverness which he had won by his previous efforts. Among the scenes selected were, views of 'Cork River,' 'Dublin Bay,' 'The Inn at Glengarriff,' and various picturesque points of the Lakes of Killarney. Mrs. Gibbs's lecture abounded in Irish anecdotes (not very novel, however), to which she endeavoured to impart the appropriate brogue,—but she only partially succeeded. The entertainment will depend for its success mainly on her singing. 'The Irish Peasant's Lament for his Wife,' 'The Rakes of Mallow,' 'The Low-backed Car,' 'Rory O'More,' and 'The Harp that once through Tara's Halls,' were among the favourites of the evening. Mrs. Gibbs, however, should get some teacher of elocution to correct a few mispronunciations which impair the general effectiveness of her delivery.

Mr. Brooke has announced his intention to turn his success at Drury Lane in part to the account of the great multitude to whose patronage he owes it. The total receipts of one night at the national theatre are advertised as being "devoted to supply a great national requirement,—viz., the establishment in this country of a FREE LIBRARY for the people;" and a promise is made that "in all the provincial towns where Mr. Brooke has the honour to appear, he will devote a portion of his receipts to the same desirable end."

The spectacular representation of 'The Tempest' at the Surrey Theatre is not on a scale sufficiently important to justify us in making a distinct feature of the performance. The acting, with the exception of Mr. G. Bennett's *Caliban*, is poor.

Mr. Davenport and Miss Fanny Vining are, we perceive, engaged to "star" at the City of London Theatre, and will appear, on the 17th inst., in the late Mr. Wilkins's drama of 'St. Marc.' A posthumous piece of this writer, taken, with Mr. Douglas Jerrold's consent, from the novel of 'St. Giles and St. James,' was produced at that theatre on Monday week, with success. The scenery included some well-painted views of easily recognized London localities,—which were warmly applauded.

The Haymarket Theatre will re-open on the 24th:—the Olympic, next Monday, the 17th, with a new and original piece, in one act, by Mr. Planché.—The distribution of talent at the different theatres is more equal at the present time than at any other period within our recollection. The stage of Drury, after the retirement of Mr. Brooke, is, however, to be again surrendered to equestrian exhibitions,—but these will be succeeded by an operative company, intended for the encouragement of English musical talent.

The "powers that be" in Paris are said to have interdicted the production of the new historical comedy by M. Alex. Dumas, about to be given at the *Théâtre Français*,—and from which much had been expected.—Meantime, the author has been firing one of his lively crackers at the reporter of the sayings and doings of the great Director of theatrical affairs in France. That worthy had asserted—and the report had reached the romancer in his exile at Brussels—that the Minister had allotted a portion of the subsidy granted to the *Théâtre Français* for the special benefit of the author of 'Monte Christo.' The said author thereupon grows quizzical and indignant. "Premiums of encouragement!" he exclaims; "I am no longer a man to be encouraged, but to be paid." "Testimonials of approbation!" he adds, with that magnificent air which is so pleasant to himself and so amusing to the public:—"no minister and no theatre is called upon to give me any testimonial of approbation." M. Dumas thus explains the circumstances out of which this theatrical scandal has grown.—"M. Housaye, the manager, asked me for a play. I presume he thought it for his interest to do so. I made my terms with M. Housaye—that, of course I had a right to do. An agreement was entered into, accordingly. That agreement has been kept on both sides. There is no question about any premium, or any testimonial of encouragement. It is simply a matter of a reciprocal contract. Whenever I receive money from the Government, I shall be the first to say so. But hitherto no opportunity has occurred for testing my sincerity in this wise. I may perhaps come to that. We shall see."—We will not undertake to interpret the sense of the concluding paragraph. It is meant, no doubt, to be facetious:—and it has the convenient property, under the present state of affairs literary and dramatic in France, of being susceptible of any meaning that circumstances may seem to render desirable.

MISCELLANEA

Assyrian Excavation Fund.—"The 'Assyrian Excavation Fund,'" says a Correspondent, "does not seem to progress so favourably as might have been expected, judging from the amount advertised as received up to the present time;—1,950*l.*, about. Why does the Committee not make arrangements, it may be asked, for the receipt of subscriptions in the City as well as at the West-End? A project of the kind will never be sufficiently successful unless made one of general interest and support. There are doubtless many in the City of London who would contribute if subscriptions could be paid to any of their banking or publishing neighbours; but it is not to be expected that either Lombard Street or Cornhill will take the trouble of going all the way to Albemarle Street or Stratford Place, though in the most enthusiastic of antiquarian moods. At Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, and all principal towns, subscription lists should also be opened,—and the proceedings of the Society conducted as if they were really in earnest. In

the course of time, too, under such circumstances, in place of being an off-shoot of the Royal Asiatic Society, the Assyrian Excavation Society might be entitled to claim for itself a separate and paramount position. I trust these hints, which are well intended, may not be thrown away; for having been one of the first, I believe, to suggest the formation of such a Society through the medium of your columns two years ago, I naturally feel interested in its prosperity.

I am, &c.

SALAMENES."

Society of Arts.—During the last quarter the Society of Arts received into union 17 literary, scientific, and mechanics' Institutions. At that date, the total number in union was 289. Of these, 261 were in England; thus distributed,—northern district, 52; western, 22; midland, 33; eastern, including Middlesex, 56; southern, 59; and south-western, 39. In Wales there were 7; in Scotland, 14; and in Ireland, 7. The list of lectures and their subjects which was recently issued seems, we are informed, as far as can be ascertained, to be generally approved; and if further experience tends to confirm this opinion, one great object of the union will be attained.

Another Postal Anomaly.—"The following case is put by a Correspondent.—A remarkable illustration of the injustice arising from the rate of foreign postage has just occurred. We find by the *Times* of August 20, that the mail brought by the screw steam-ship Harbinger from Australia was the largest ever landed at Southampton. It consisted of 250 boxes and bags of letters and newspapers. As there is no contract existing between the Government and the General Screw Steam-Ship Company for conveying mails between this country and Australia, the Harbinger's mails all come under the designation of ship-letter bags, and the letters are charged to the public at the rate of 8*d.* per half-ounce instead of 1*s.*, which would be the case if conveyed by postal contract. Of this 8*d.*, the Post-office appropriates 6*d.* to itself for merely distributing the letters throughout the kingdom (an operation performed for 1*d.* in the case of inland letters), and pays 2*d.* each to the ship. Thus, the General Post-Office charges three times as much for merely delivering the letters to the public as is appropriated to the vessel for bringing the mails by steam from the Antipodes.—Now, suppose the case of some poor peasant in a neighbouring Hampshire village receiving one of these letters from his son, just landed at Melbourne. The Post-Office would mulct him of 6*d.* for conveying the letter 14 miles, whilst the proprietors of the Harbinger had conveyed it 14,000 miles for 2*d.* If each of the 450,000 letters contained in this great mail could be followed to its respective destination, the amount of hardship inflicted on the friends of poor emigrants would be found to be so great that it would present an irresistible plea for an Ocean Penny Postage."

Locomotion by Compressed Air.—"The obstacles which have till now opposed the employment of the expansive force of compressed air will, it is thought, disappear through the process of M. Julienne, which consists simply in compressing air by means of an hydraulic press. By this method, M. Julienne substitutes for the solid piston—which a grain of sand may alter, which the slightest irregularity in the pump would throw out of action, and which becomes heated by friction—a liquid piston, not less incompressible than the other, filling always exactly the space in which it moves, be it regular or not, and acting by progression on a resistance so exactly calculated, that its proportion, although increasing, is always in relation to the force to be overcome. The air is thus compressed at thirty atmospheres in iron bottles, which are about four millimètres thick. It is perfectly preserved under this pressure; and it was with a bottle of this kind that M. Julienne put in action a small vehicle, carrying two persons, and moving with great rapidity.—*American Journal.*

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